

THE SKULL MAN


3

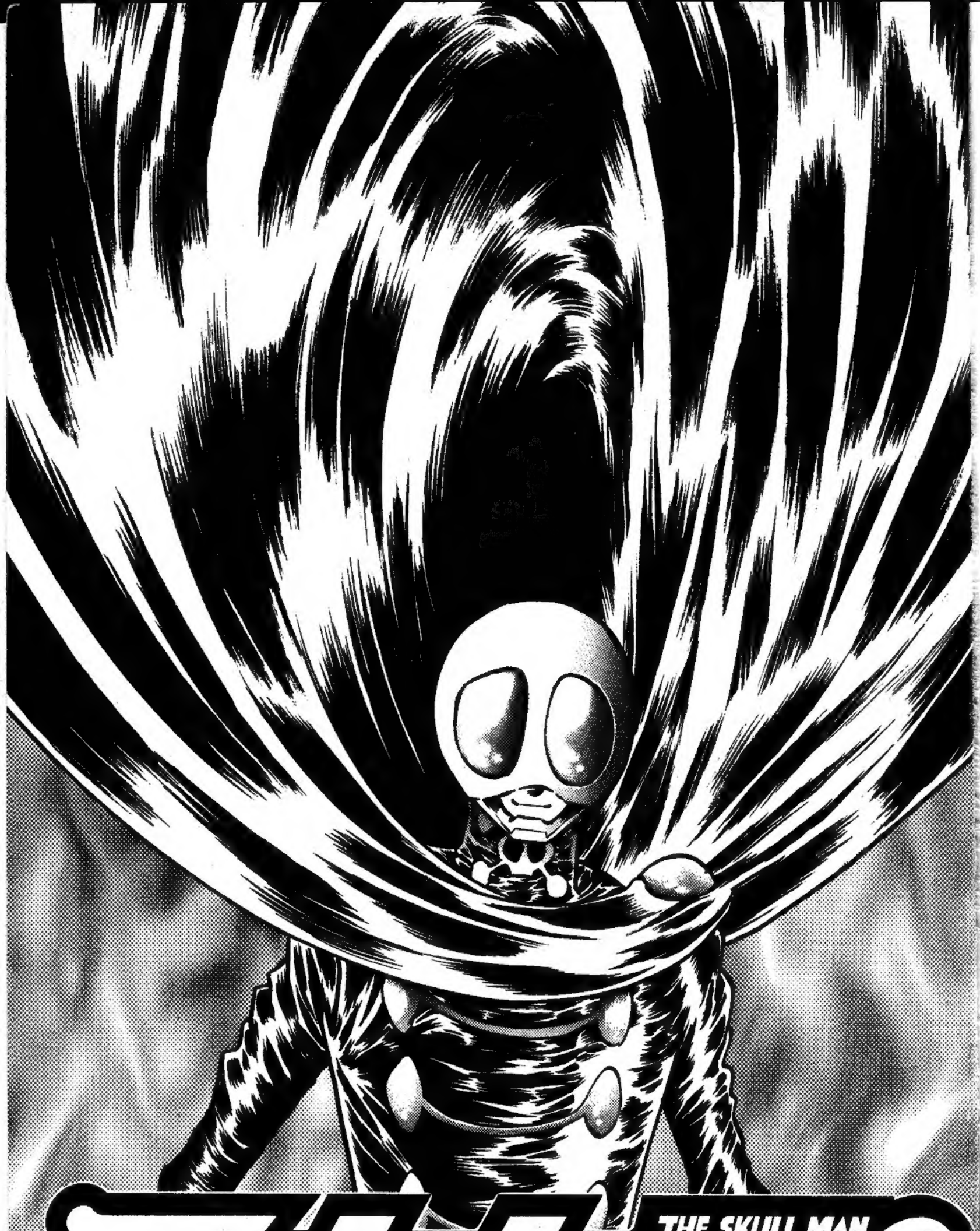


Kazuhiko Shimamoto
Shotaro Ishinomori

Agents from an organization engaged in secret experiments with mind control and genetic mutation have pervaded society, occupying positions of responsibility and power, slowly tightening their stranglehold on mankind. To fund its research, the organization has unleashed legions of genetic mutants with the ability to disguise themselves as human beings throughout the city, starting a crime spree of epidemic proportions. The police are powerless to stop it... even if they wanted to.

Only one grizzled cop, Detective Hioka - a man disillusioned with law enforcement, barely on the wagon, and fighting for his partner's life - knows the score. But he can't fight them alone. He'll need the help of the enigmatic Skull Man, a man whose very existence is being challenged by the police department, who remains uncovered in the mainstream press, and who is loathed by Hioka. But without Skull Man, Hioka stands to lose everything.





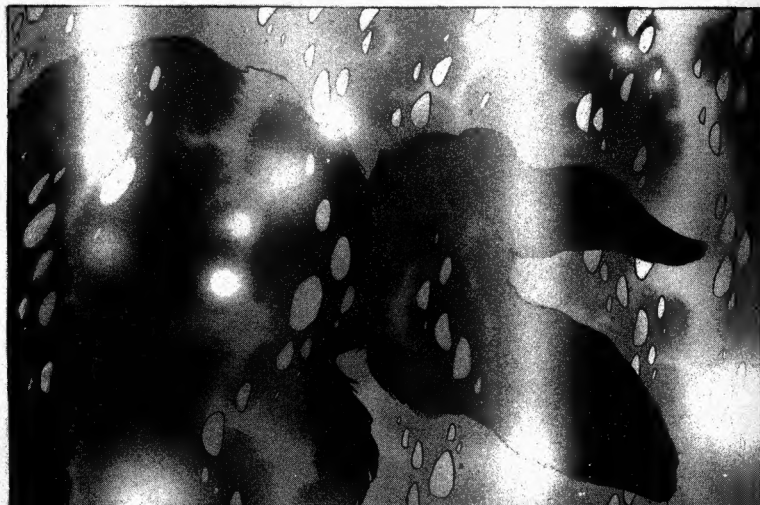
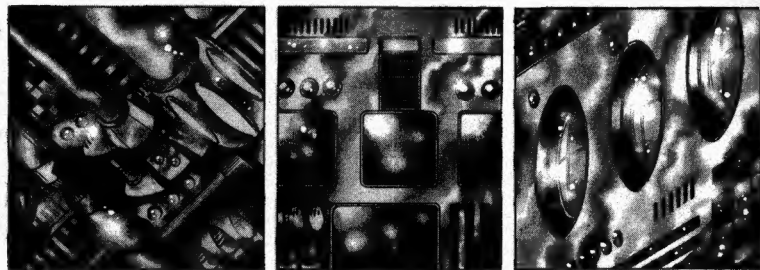
スカルマン THE SKULL MAN 

The Skull Man °

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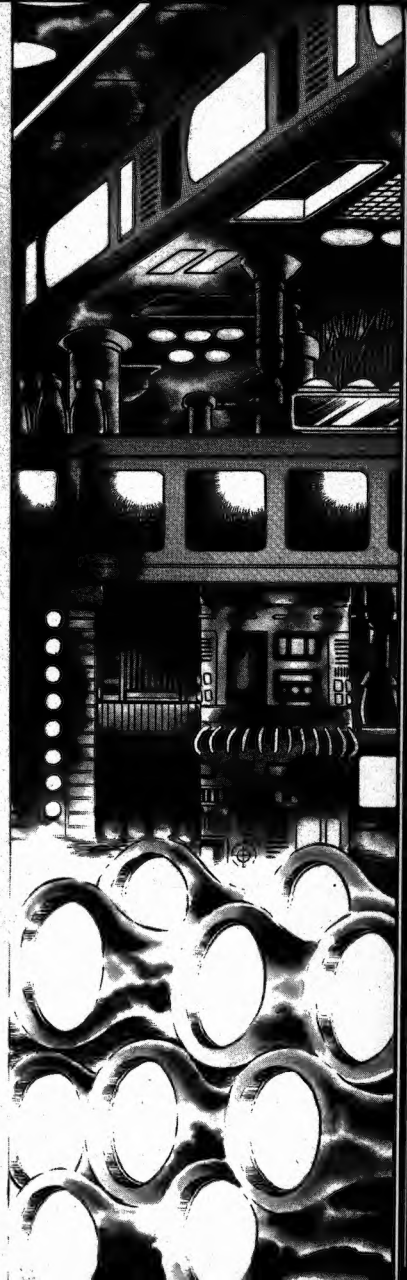
CH. 15 擬態 MIMIC

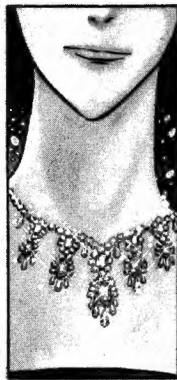
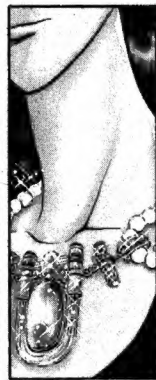
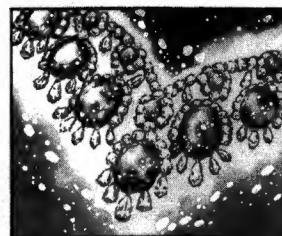
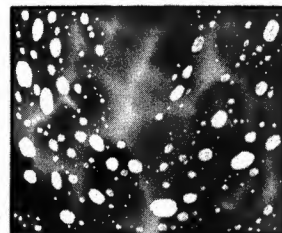


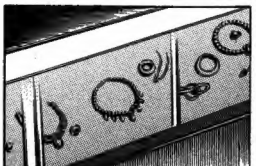
The Story Thus Far ...

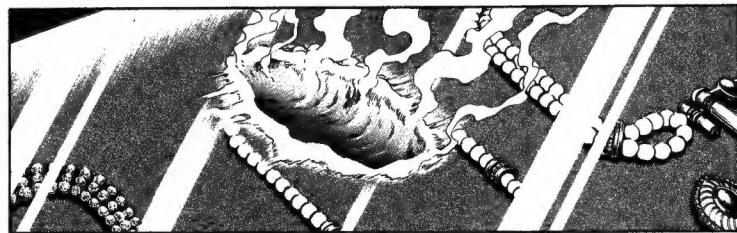
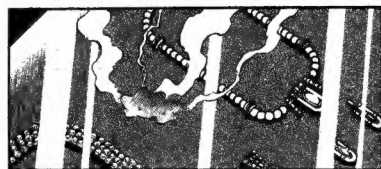
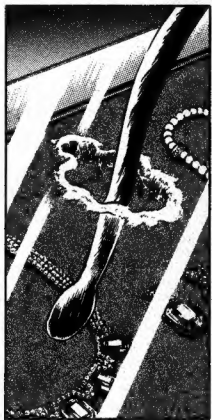
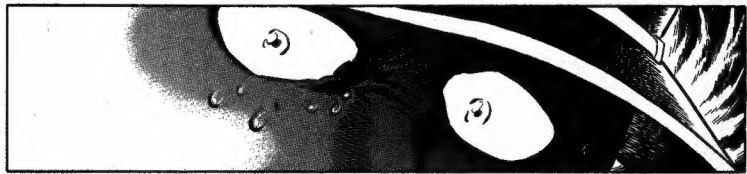
Fearing that the genetic experiments being conducted by his son and daughter-in-law would prove more harmful to humanity than good, Toratsuki Chisato had the couple murdered and vowed to raise his grandchildren, Maya and Tatsuo. When the children began demonstrating the same types of superhuman abilities manifest in their parents, Toratsuki decided to put an end to it all by locking himself and his brood in a burning house. The children survived, though. Decades later they long to discover the source of their powers.

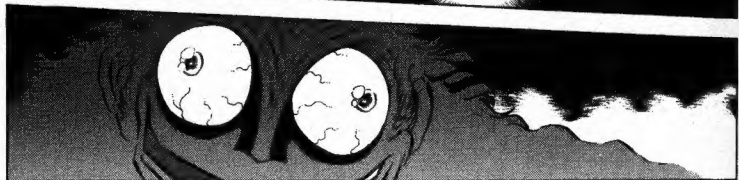
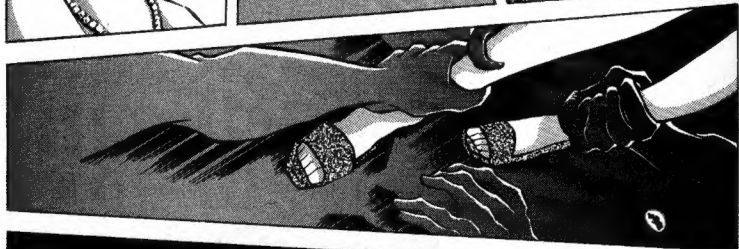
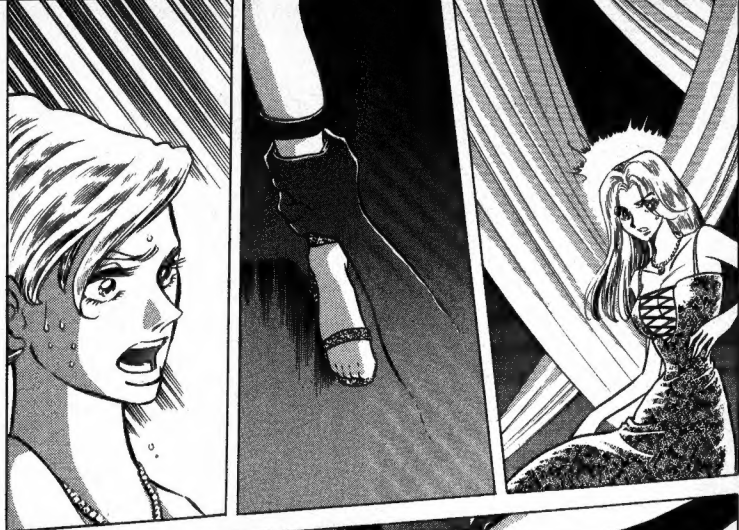
Tatsuo emerged from obscurity as The Skull Man and now longs to crush the estate that his grandfather left behind ... but a larger organization born out of what remained of the Chisato estate may be aiming to continue the genetic experimentation that killed his parents. Torn between revenge and a growing sense of responsibility for mankind, Tatsuo continues to search for answers, even as his body continues to mutate. Only his sister Maya, a mystical, unseen presence in his life, has the ability to pacify his rage ... and only the complete destruction of that mysterious organization will quell his thirst for revenge.



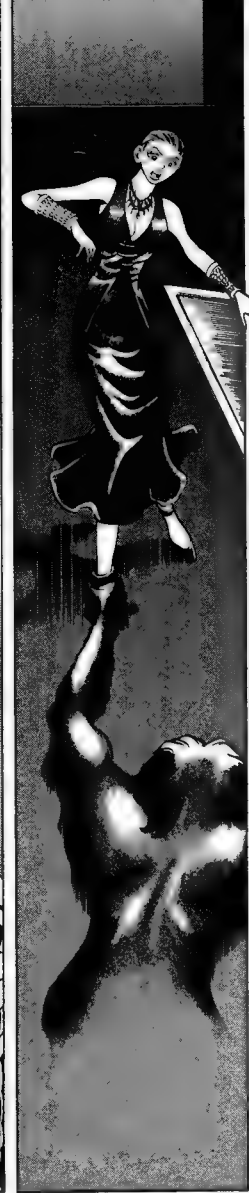
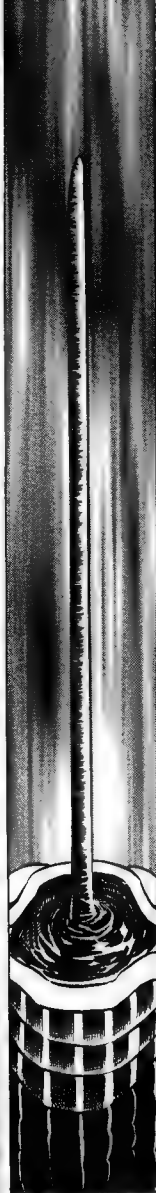
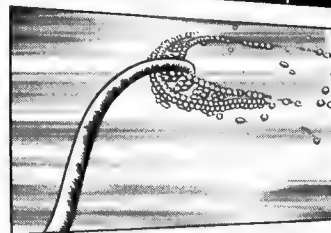
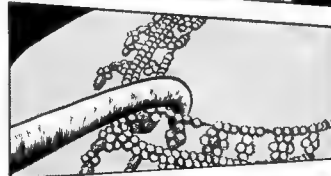
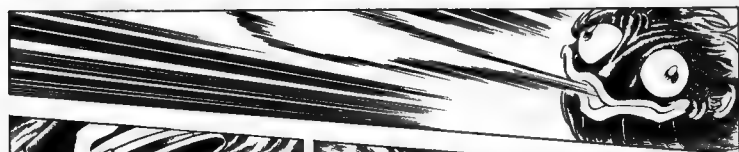
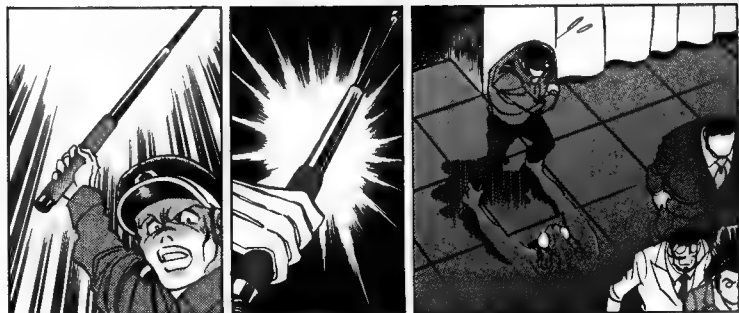


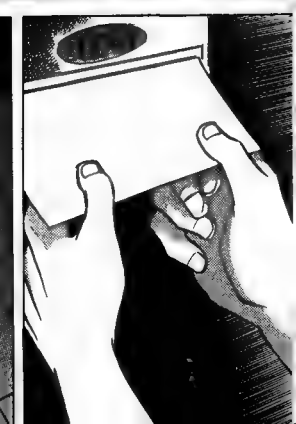
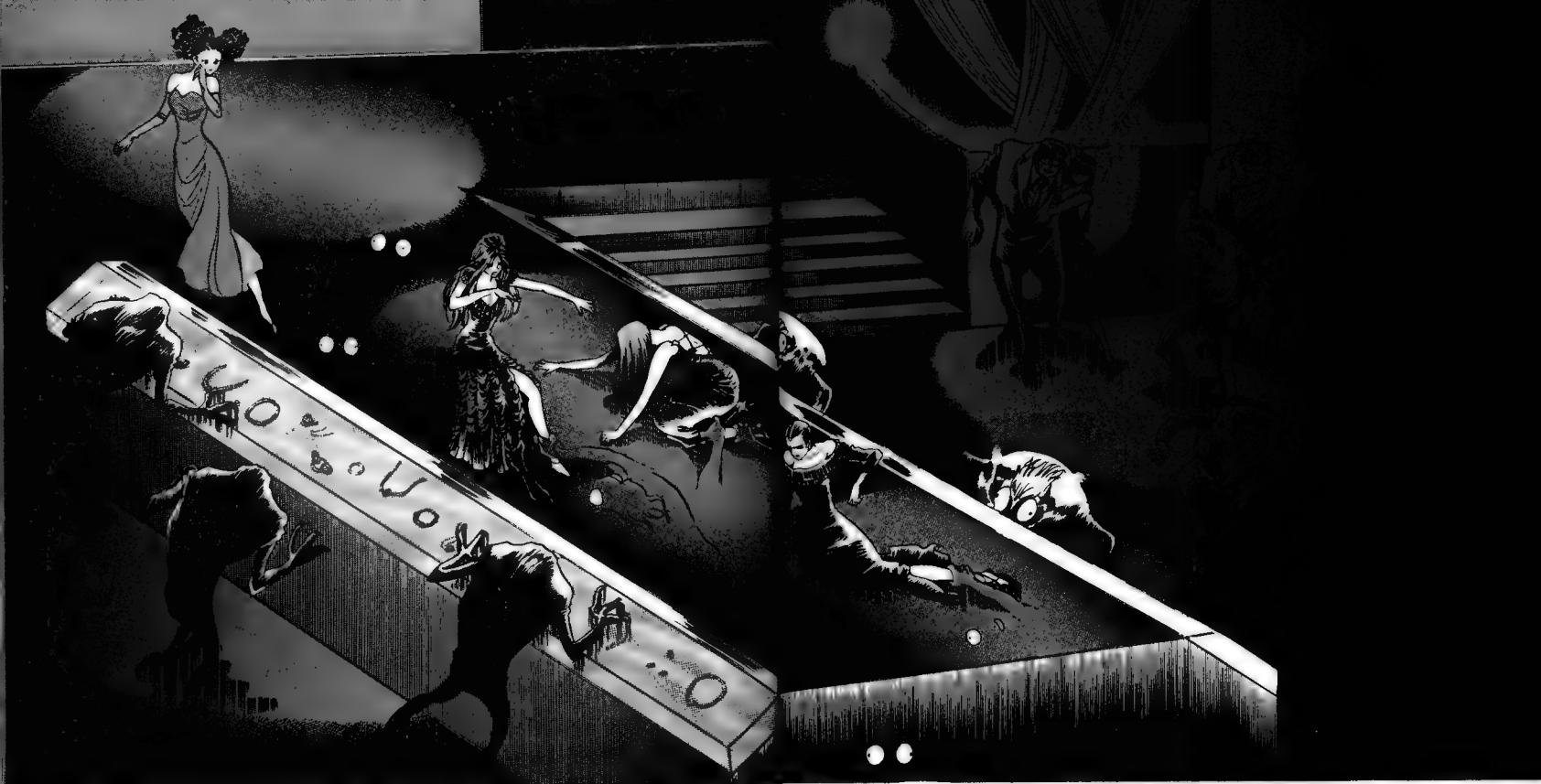


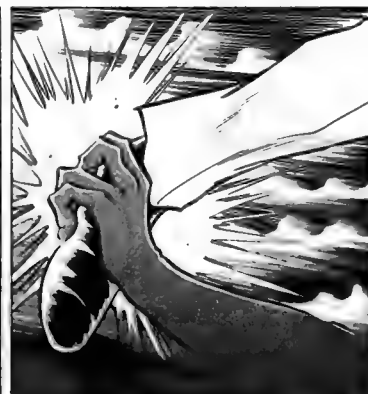


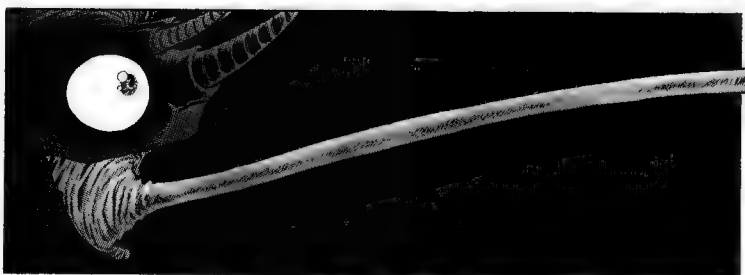
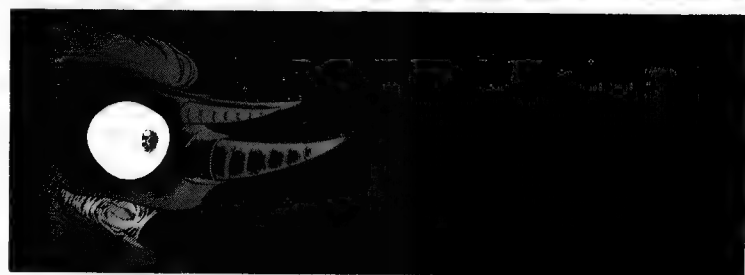
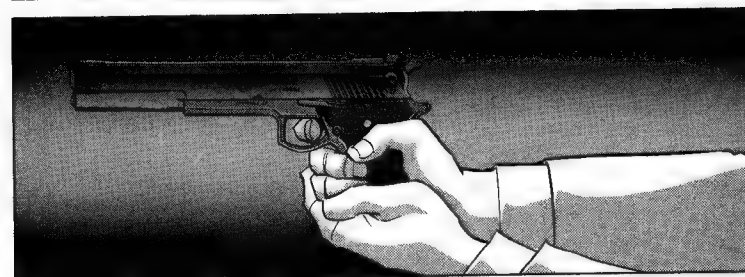
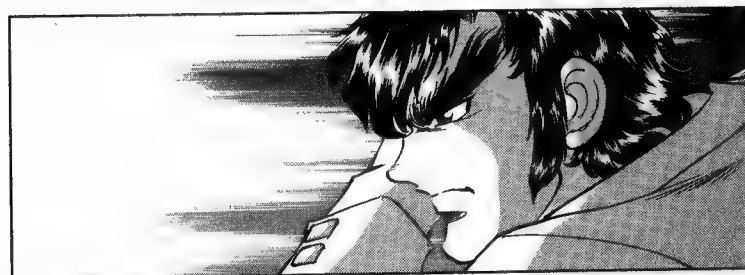
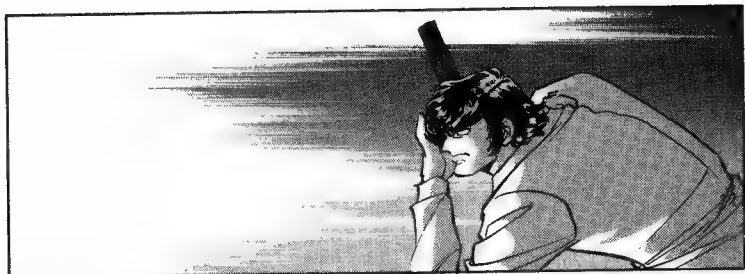














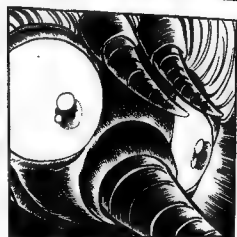
I CAN'T
TELL IF
HE'S
ARMED.

IT
HAS
TO
BE
HUMAN!!

BUT HE
DEFINITELY
DOESN'T
HAVE A
GUN!!

CAN I
JUSTIFY
SHOOTING?!

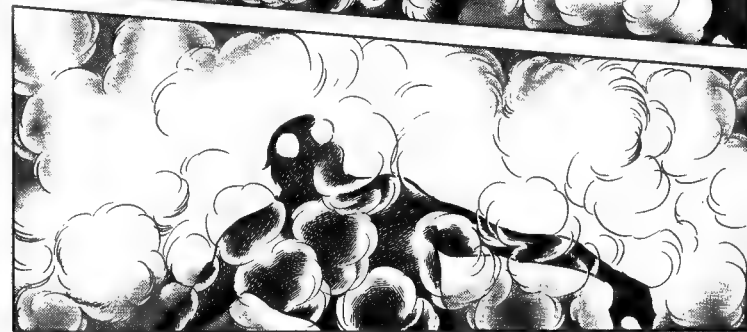
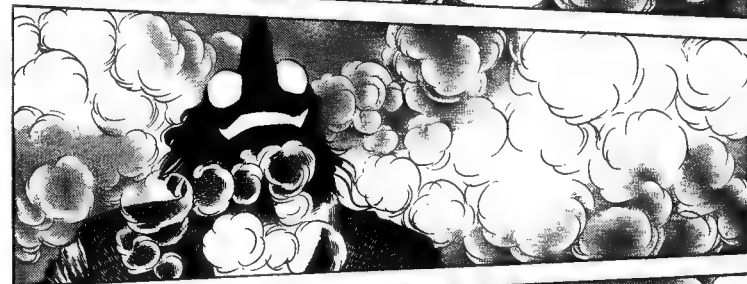
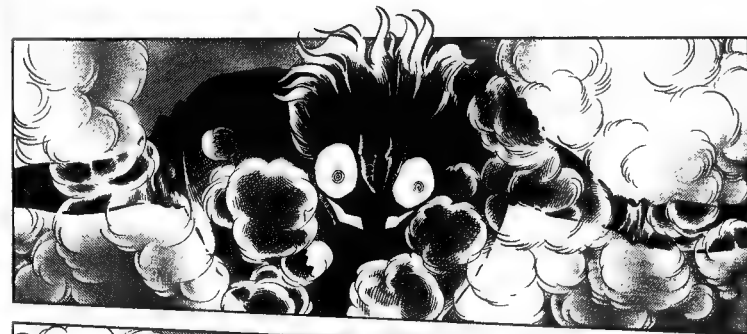
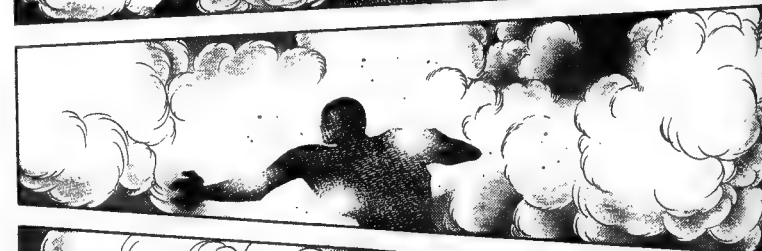
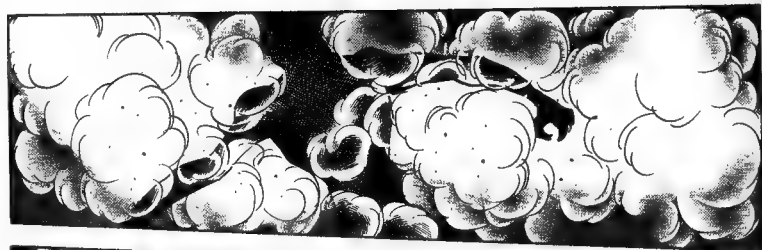
THERE'S A
PERSON
BENEATH
THERE!!



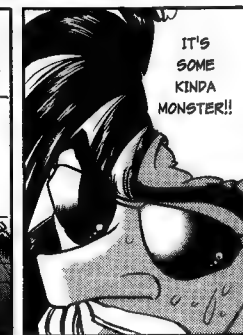
CH. 16

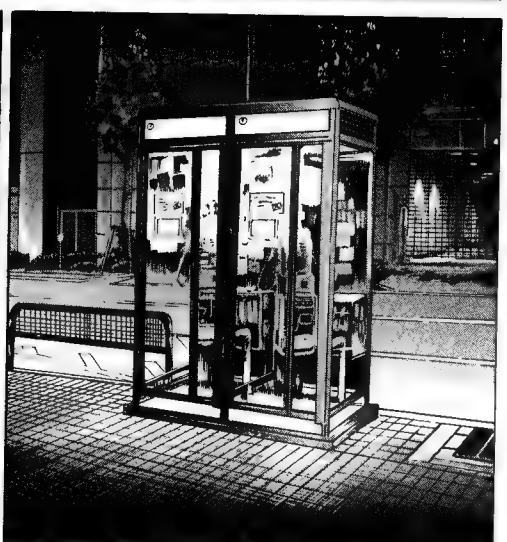
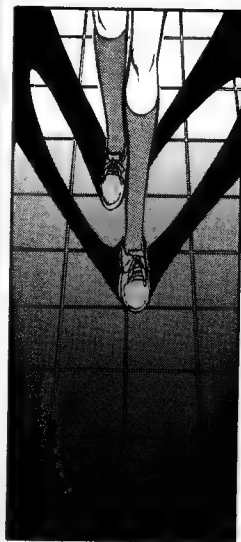
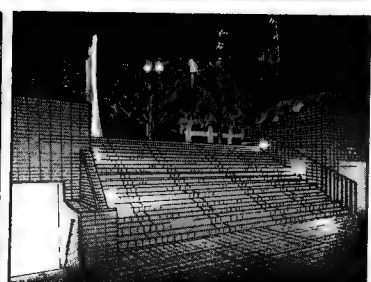
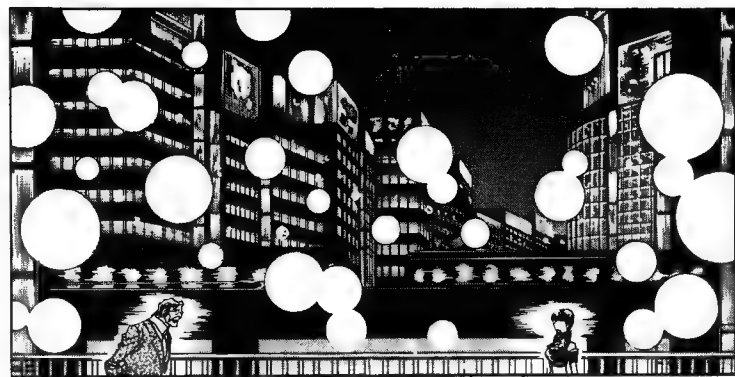
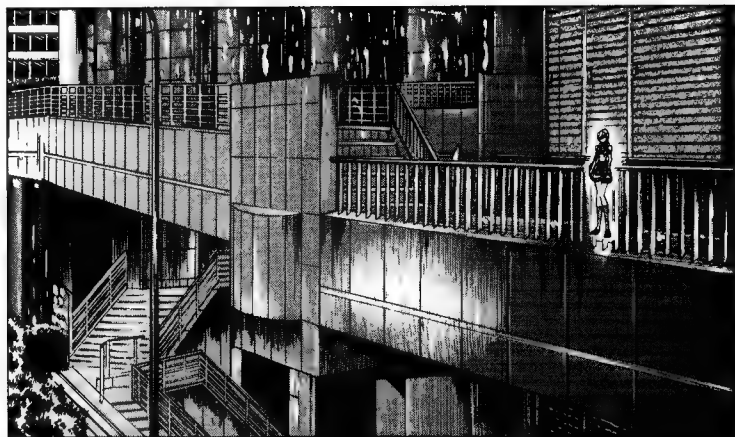
ハニー・ビー
THE WASPS

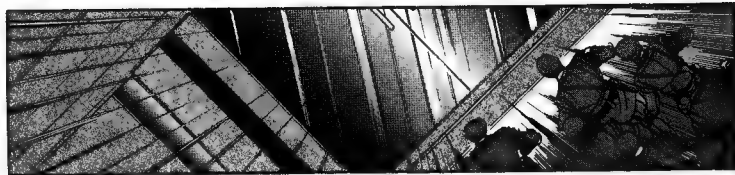
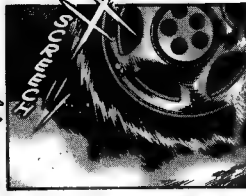
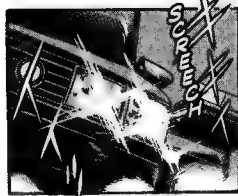
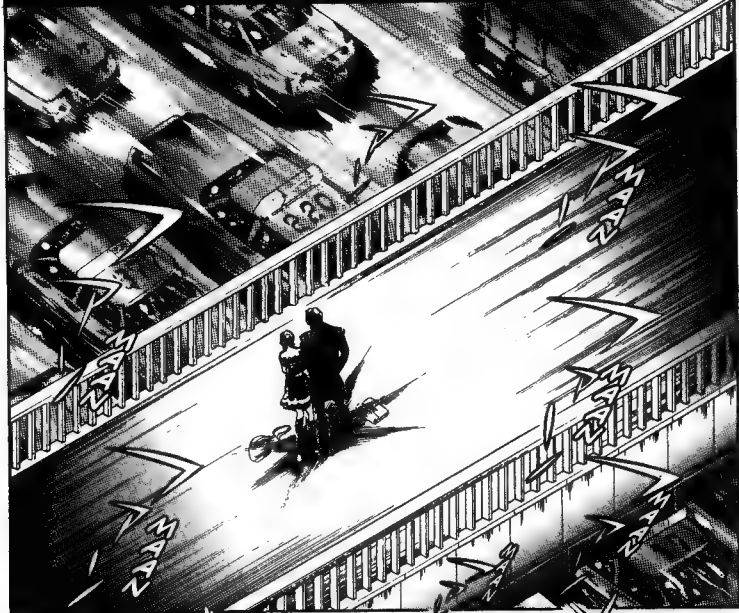


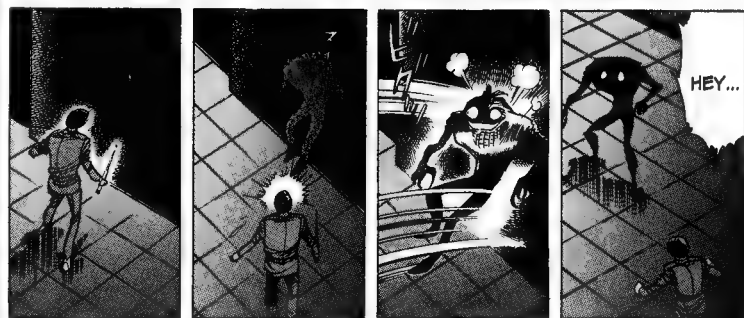
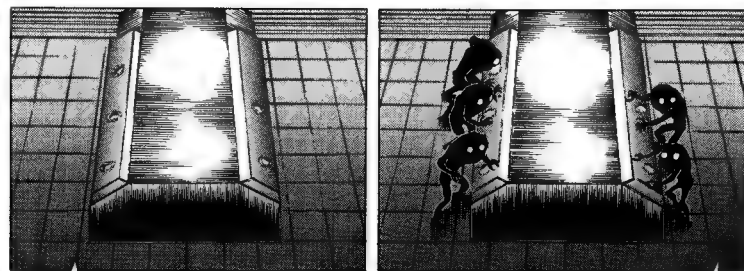
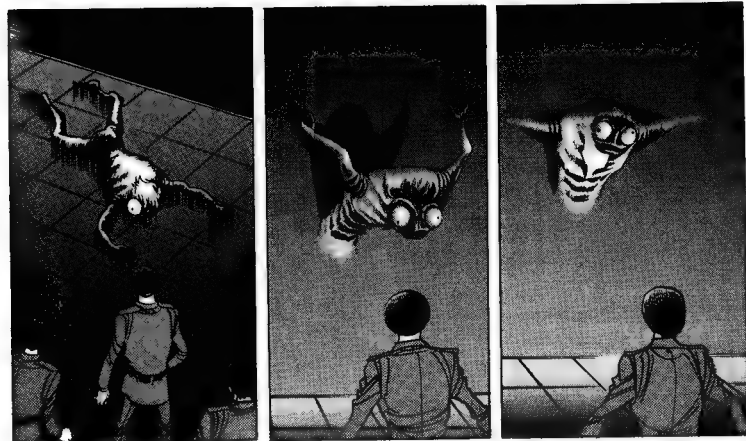
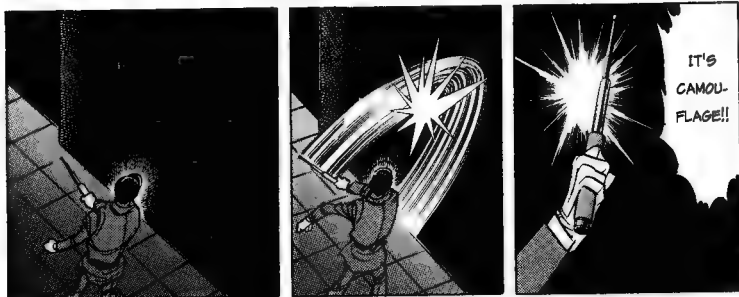


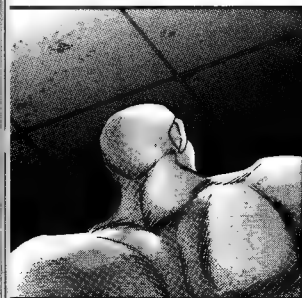












WHO ARE YOU?!

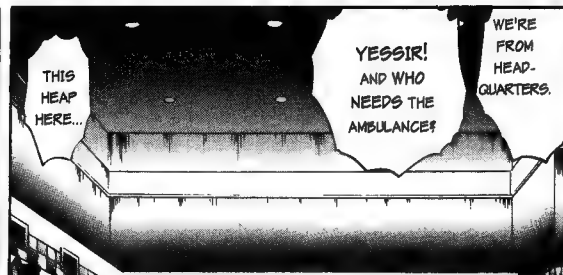
UH, NO. IT'S JUST US...



AMBU- LANCES!

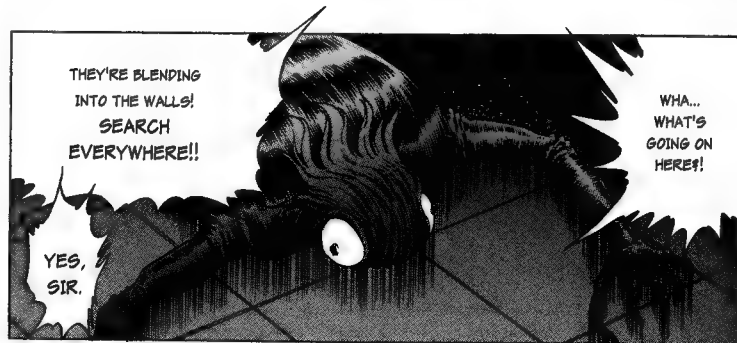
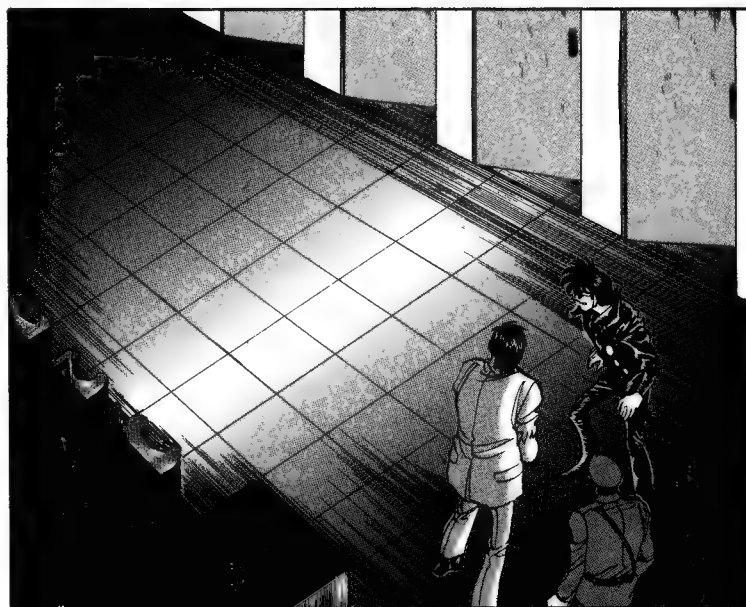


THIS HEAP HERE...



YESSIR! AND WHO NEEDS THE AMBULANCES!

WE'RE FROM HEAD-QUARTERS.



THEY'RE BLENDING INTO THE WALLS! SEARCH EVERYWHERE!!

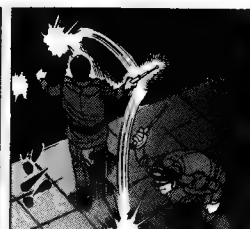
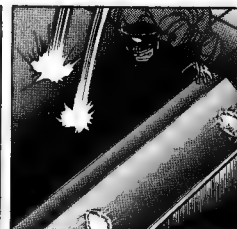
WHA... WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

YES, SIR.



LOOK FOR ABNORMALITIES!

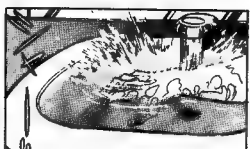
RIGHT!



WHERE'S THE AMBU- LANCE?!

ABOUT TIME!

HUH?!



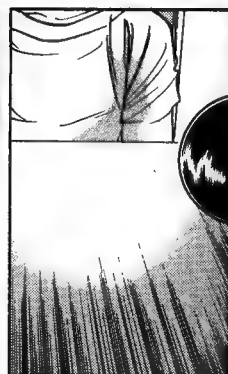
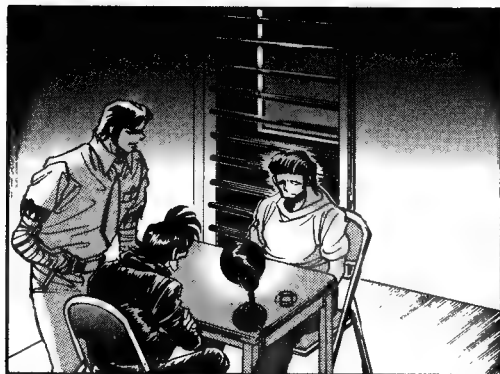


AW,
HELL!

DON'T
LIKE
ONES
SLIPPING
AWAY.

BUT NOW
WE DON'T
HAVE TO
EXPLAIN A
CORPSE
TO THE
BRASS.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT



HEH.



HE
WAS
JUST
HERE!



WHA...!
WHERE...?



WHAT'S SO
GODDAMN
FUNNY,
HIOKA?



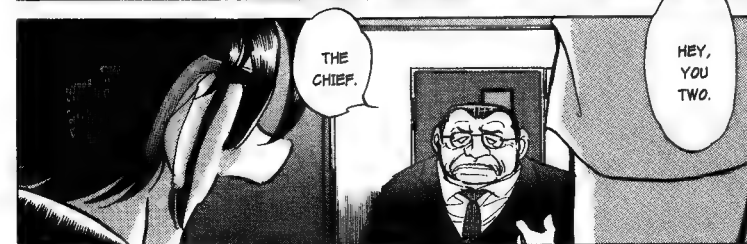
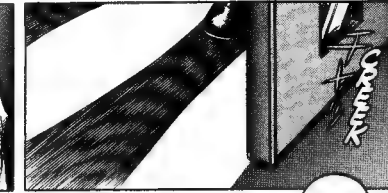
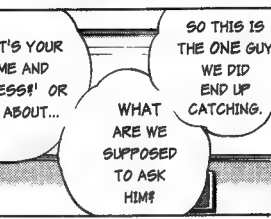
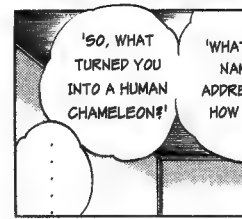
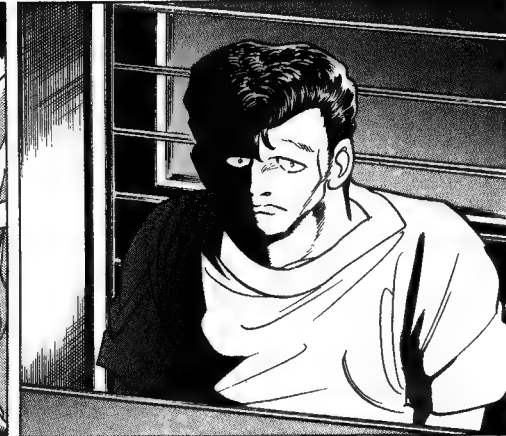
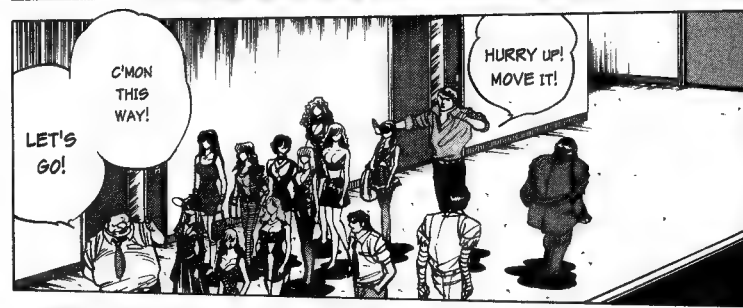
HA HA! IT
LOOKS LIKE
WE'RE NOT AS
KEEN AS WE
THINK WE ARE,
OTAKI!



I'D
RATHER
NOT
HAVE
THE
BODY!

IT'S
BETTER
THIS
WAY.

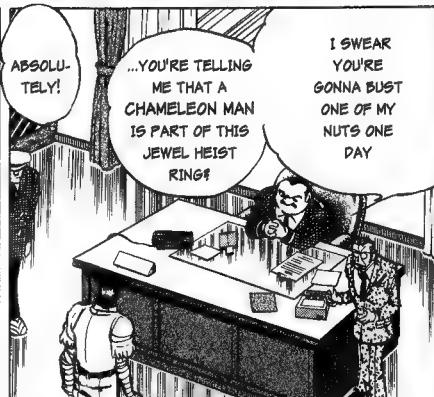






AND WE'VE
GOT LIVING
PROOF NOW!

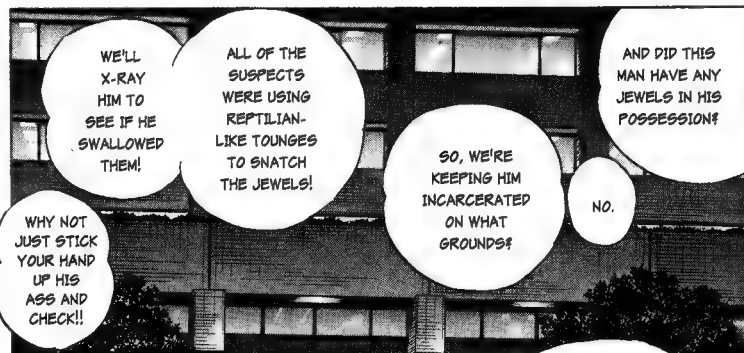
FINALLY!!



ABSOLU-
TELY!

...YOU'RE TELLING
ME THAT A
CHAMELEON MAN
IS PART OF THIS
JEWEL HEIST
RING?

I SWEAR
YOU'RE
GONNA BUST
ONE OF MY
NUTS ONE
DAY



WE'LL
X-RAY
HIM TO
SEE IF HE
SWALLOWED
THEM!

ALL OF THE
SUSPECTS
WERE USING
REPTILIAN-
LIKE TONGUES
TO SNATCH
THE JEWELS!

AND DID THIS
MAN HAVE ANY
JEWELS IN HIS
POSSESSION?

SO, WE'RE
KEEPING HIM
INCARCERATED
ON WHAT
GROUNDS?

NO.

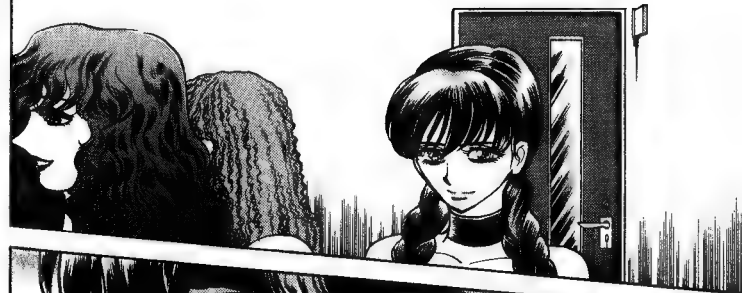
WHY NOT
JUST STICK
YOUR HAND
UP HIS
ASS AND
CHECK!!



WHAT?!

CAPISHE
?!

RELEASE HIM
ON THE QUICK!
GET HIM THE HELL
OUT OF HERE
BEFORE THE
PRESS STARTS
TEARING US TO
PIECES!



I GOT AN
ULCER,
HIOKA.
SO MAKE
THIS
EASY.

SIR?

THAT
GOON YOU
DRAGGED
IN...

THE ONE
YOU'RE
NEEDLING
NOW ...



YESSIR.
SPECIFIC-
ALLY A
CHAMELEON!

IS A -- AND
PLEASE
CORRECT
ME -- A
LIZARD
MAN?!





WHA...?!



HEY,
SOMEBODY
HELP ME
HERE!!

HEY, YOU
CRAZY
BROAD!

JEEZ!
WHAT THE
HELL?!



SHIT, IS
THIS
SOME
KINDA
TRAP?!



KNOCK IT
OFF!

HEY,
STOP IT.

WHAT THE
HELL ARE
YA DOIN'?

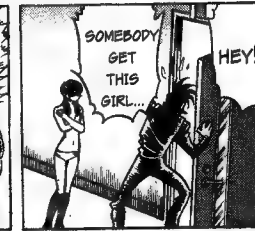


ONE OF HIS
CHAMELEON
BUDDIES MIGHT
SNEAK IN AND
...

DAMN! I'M
NOT
SUPPOSTA
OPEN THIS
DOOR.



SLAM



SOMEBODY
GET
THIS
GIRL...

HEY!



HEY,
WHAT ARE
YA' DOIN' IN
HERE?

HMMF



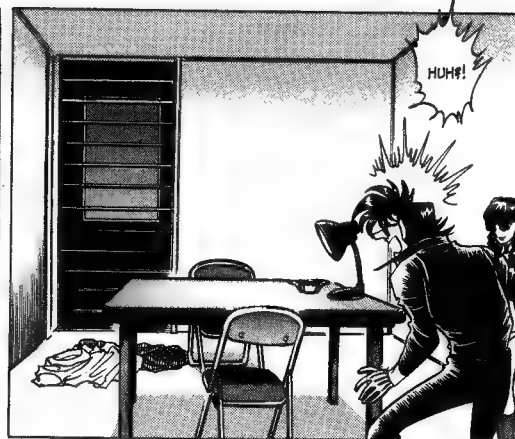
CLICK

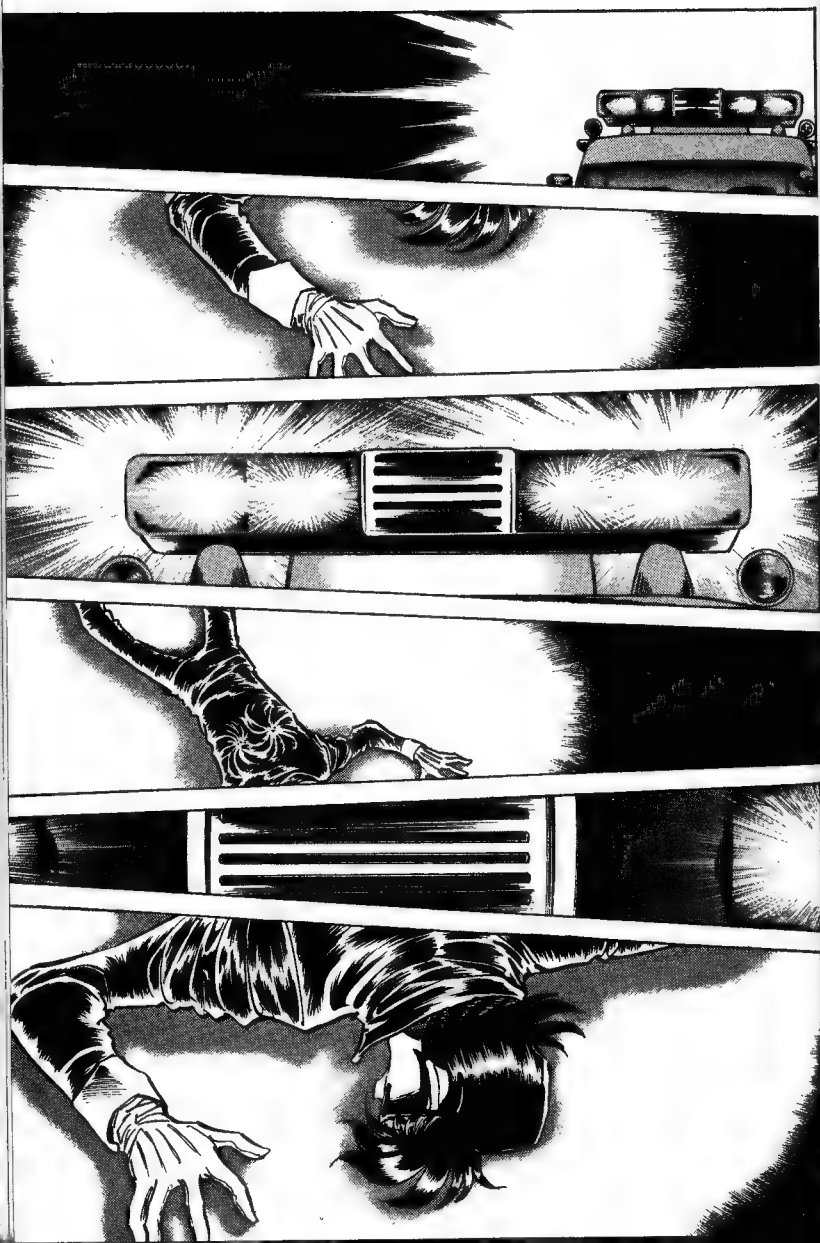


PARDON
ME, SIR.

I DON'T
THINK I
HEARD YOU
CORRECTLY!

COULD
YOU
REPEAT
THAT?!

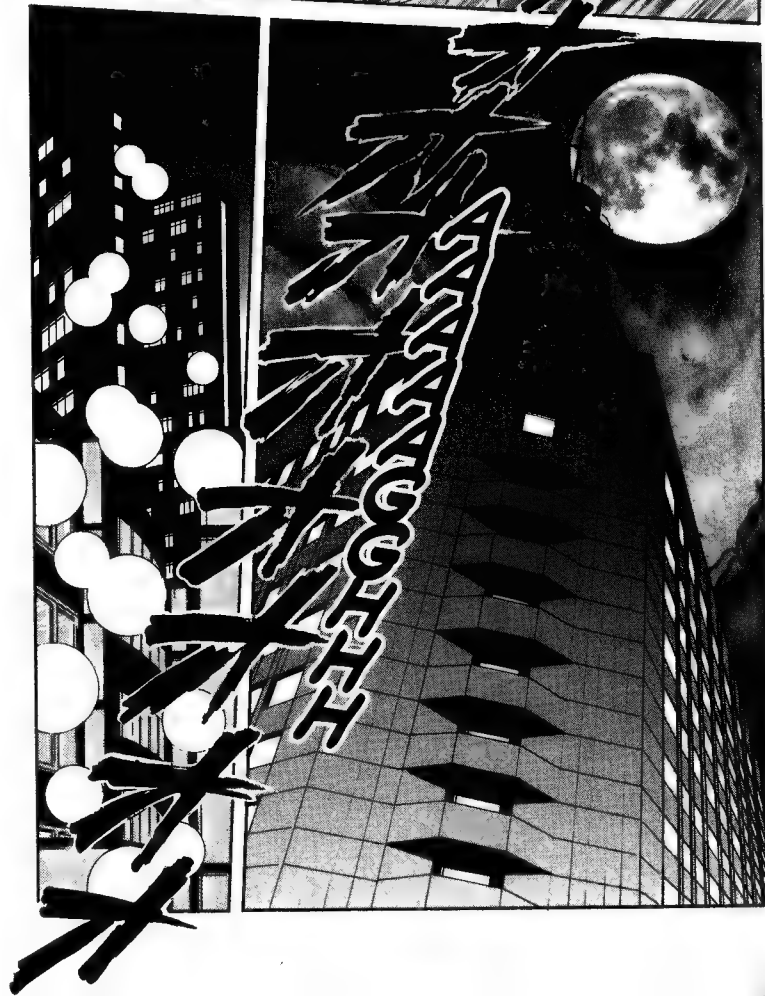






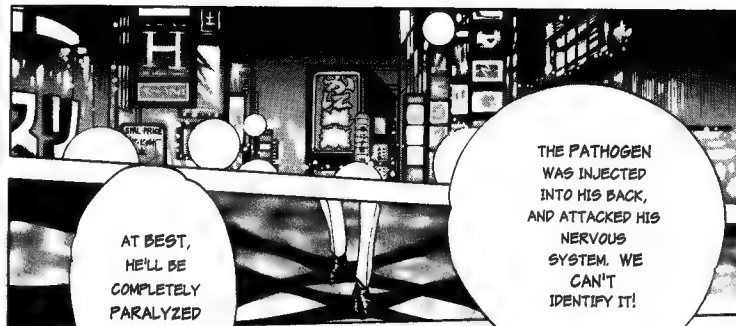
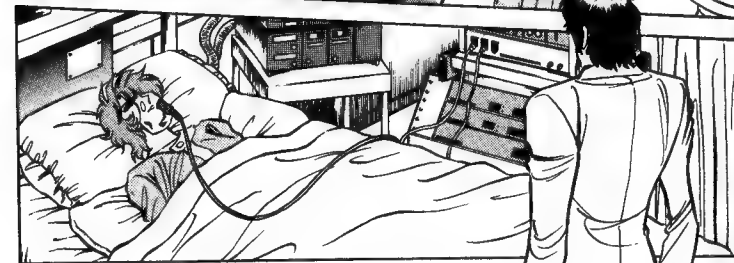
"OTAKI!!"

CH. 17 ワスプ・ビー・ホテル
The Wasp
Hive Hotel

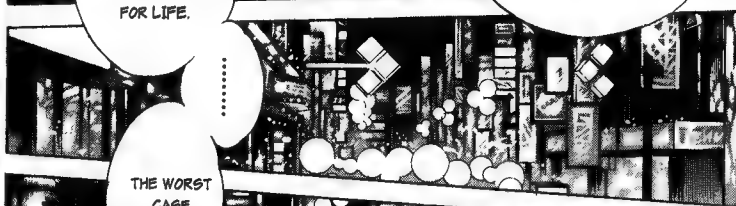




AGAIN!
JUST LIKE
... HER!



THE PATHOGEN
WAS INJECTED
INTO HIS BACK,
AND ATTACKED HIS
NERVOUS
SYSTEM. WE
CAN'T
IDENTIFY IT!



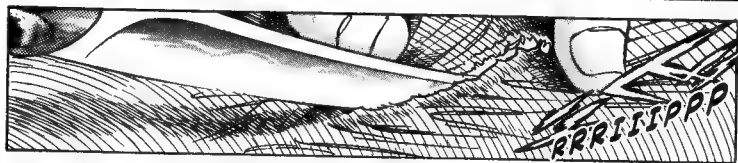
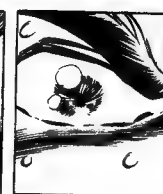
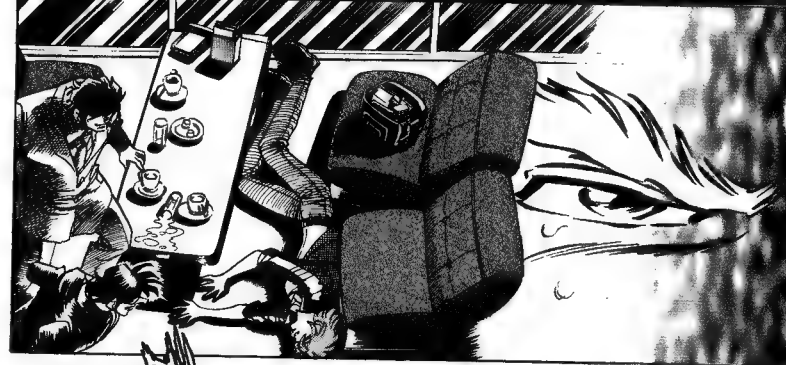
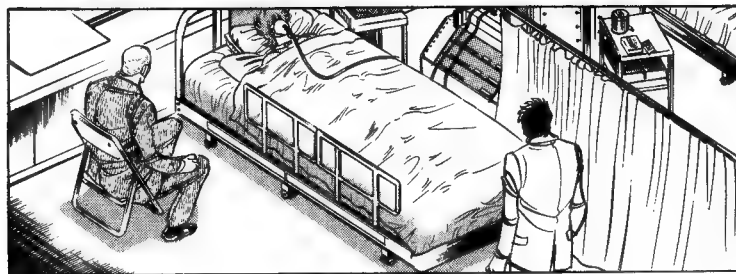
THE WORST
CASE
SCENARIO ...

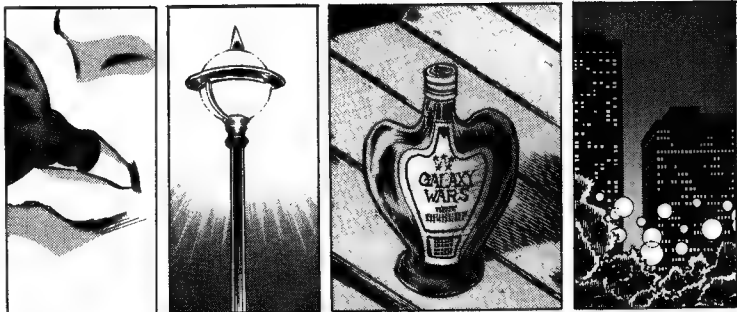


IF THE CURRENT
RATE OF
CONTAMINATION
REMAINS
STEADY, WE
ONLY HAVE
ABOUT TWELVE
HOURS.

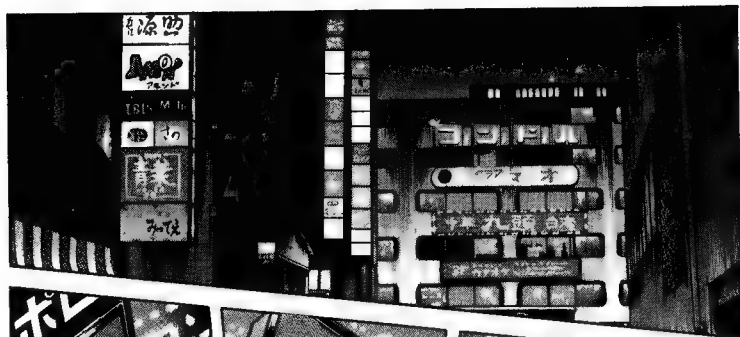


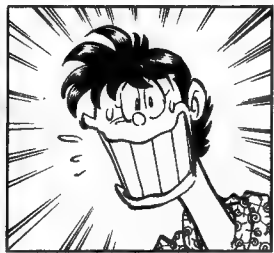
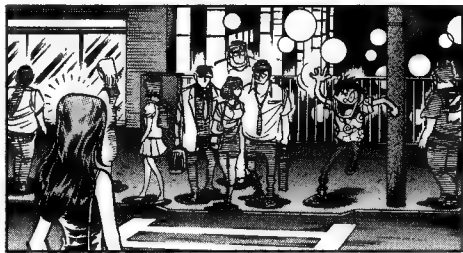
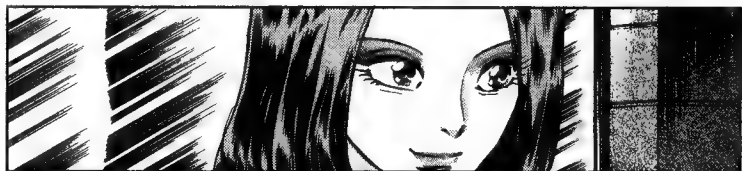
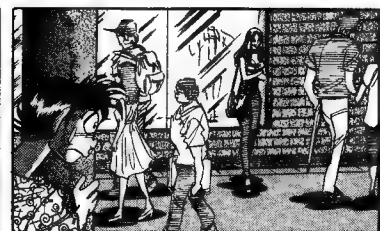
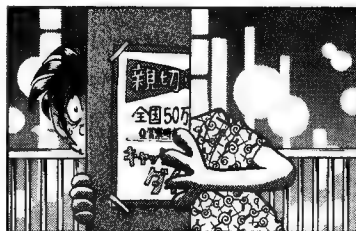
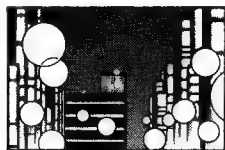
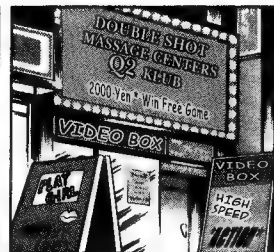
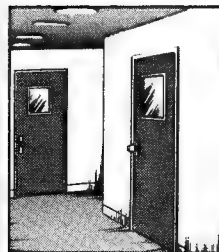
IT IS CRUCIAL
THAT WE ANALYZE
THE SOURCE
CONTAMINANT AND
DEVELOP AN
ANTIDOTE WITHIN
THAT TIME OR...
WELL...

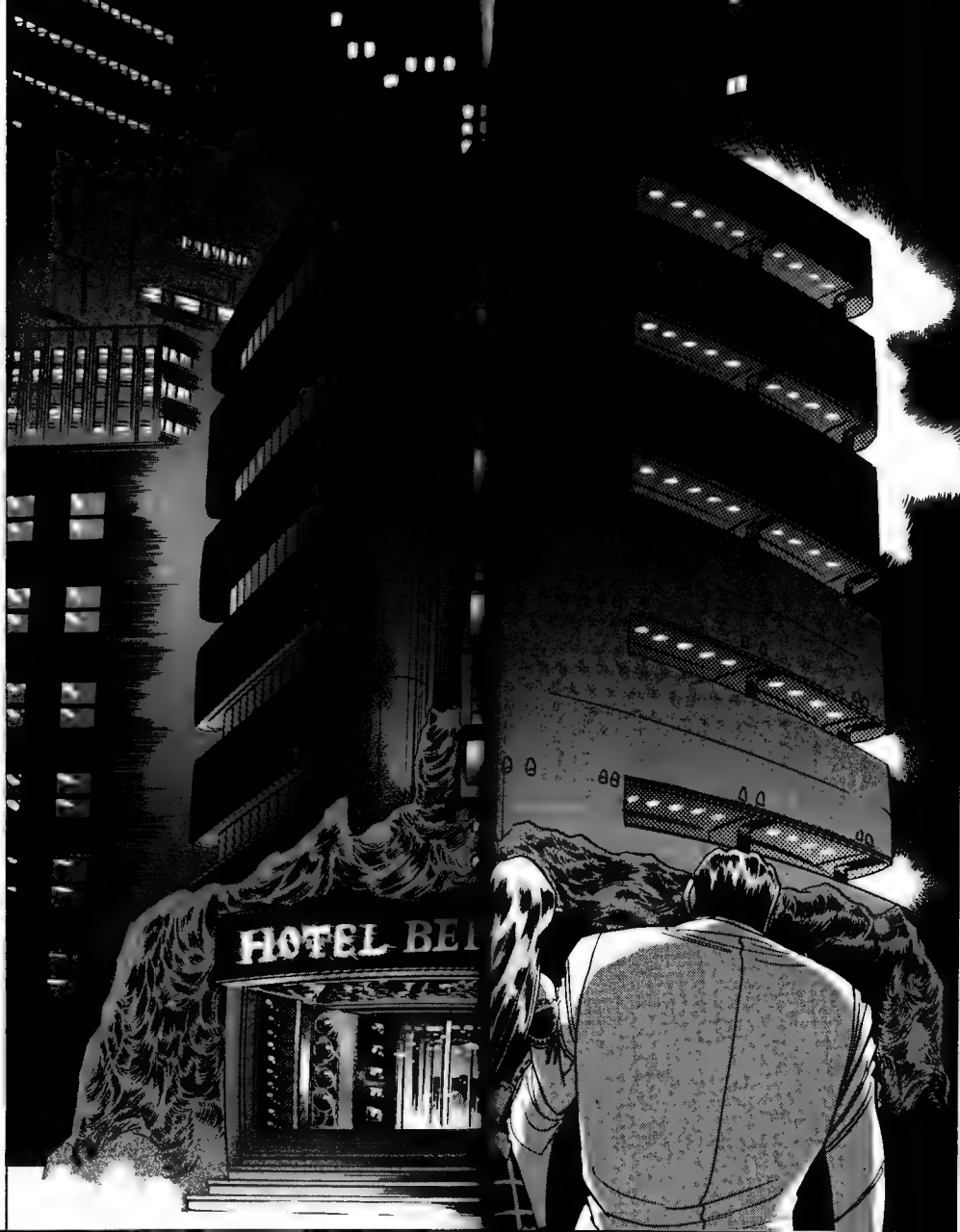
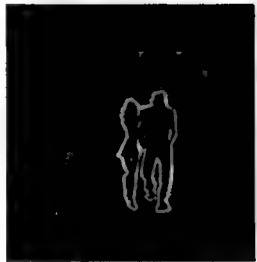
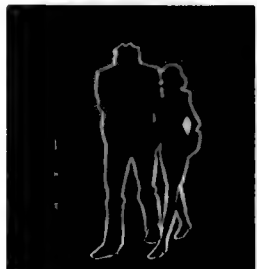


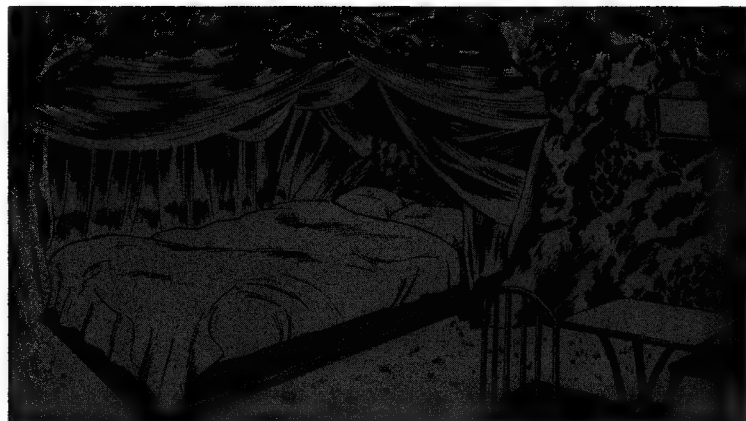
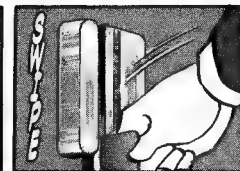
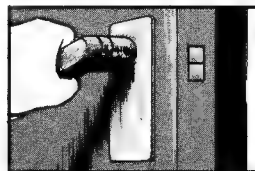
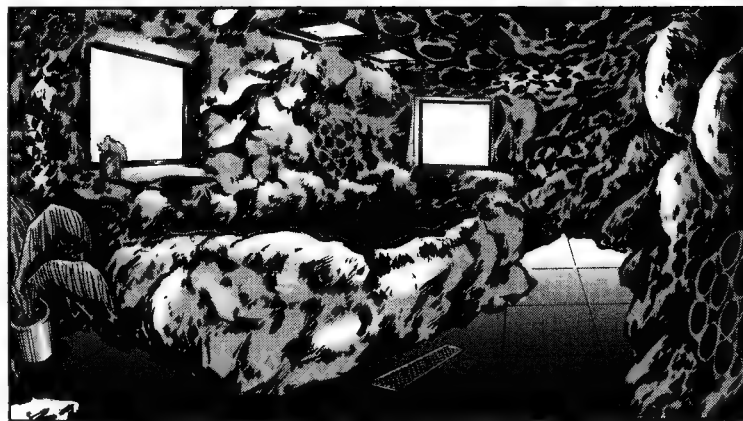
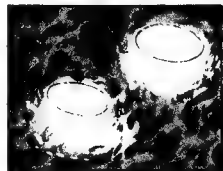
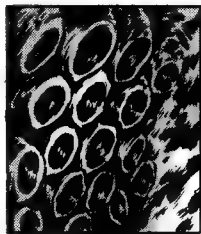


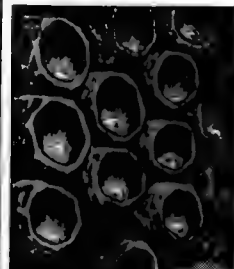
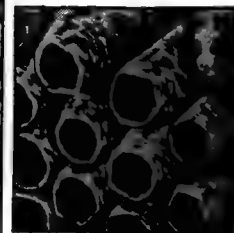
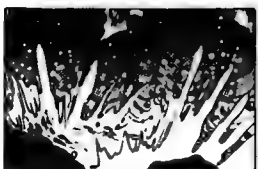
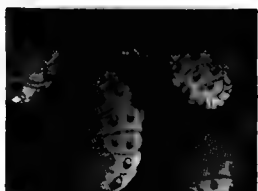


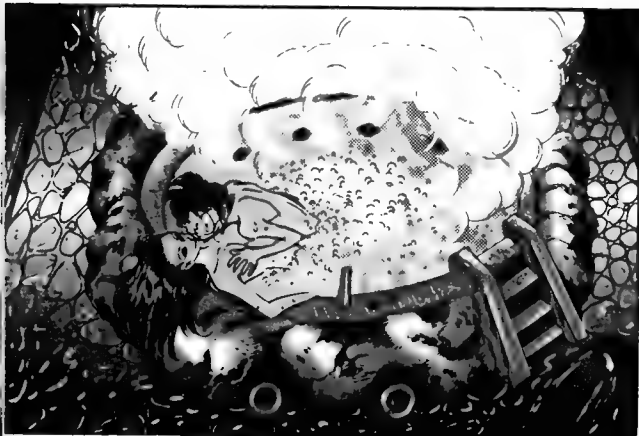


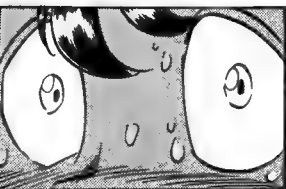
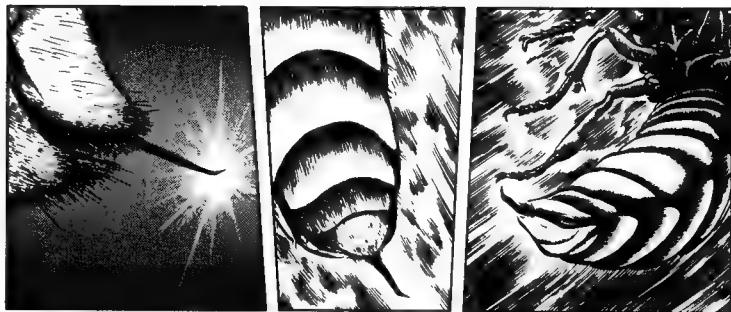


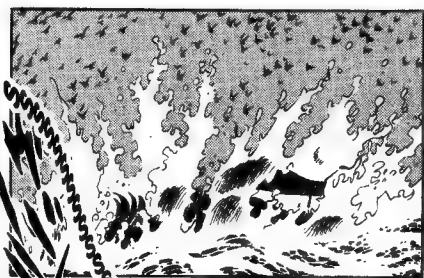
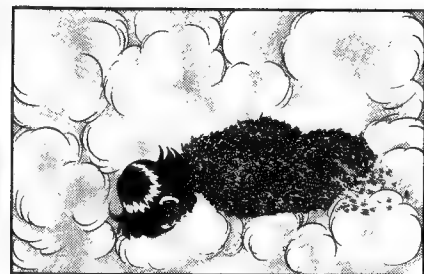






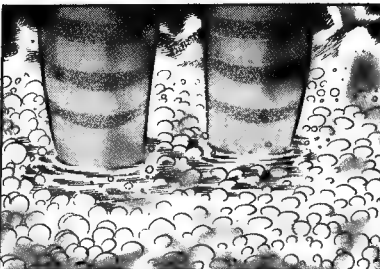


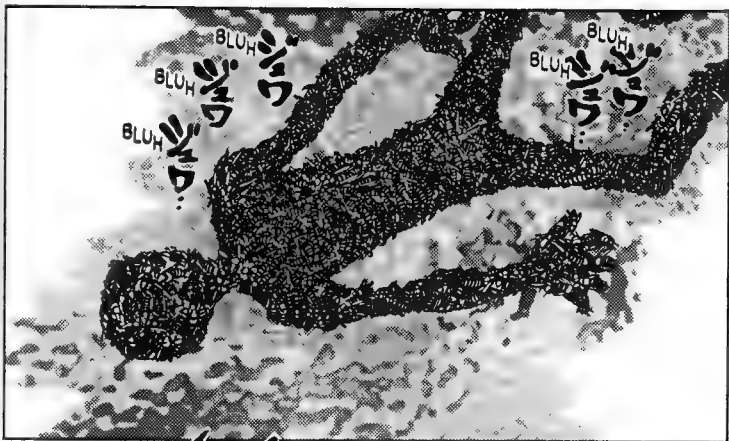
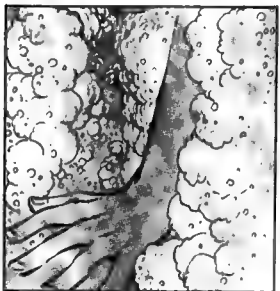
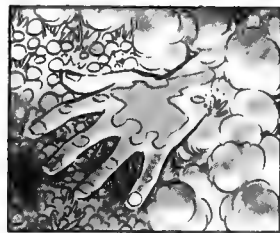


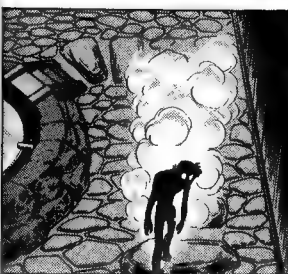
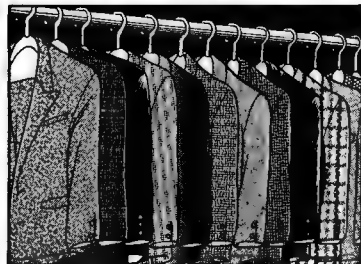




CH. **18** 羽音 **THE HUM OF WASPS**







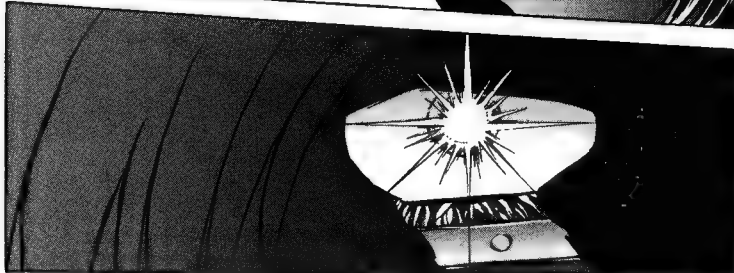


YOUR
WASPS WORK
DILLIGENTLY ...

... AND WITH A
BEAUTIFUL
NATURAL
ARTISTRY.

IMPRESSIVE.





IF YOU
REQUIRE SO MANY
BEES TO INJECT
YOUR POISON ...

THE METHOD
STRAINS
PRACTICALITY,
DOES IT NOT?

BUT...



MASTER
RASPUTIN
!!



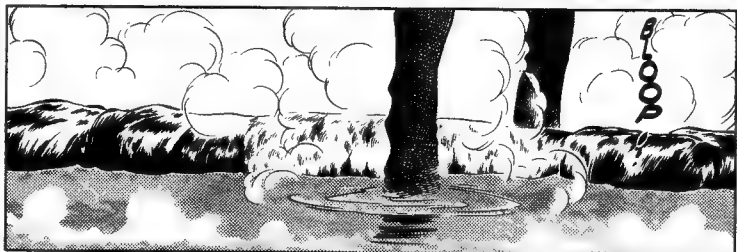


YOUR QUEEN
PAINTS A
VIVID, IF
SOMEWHAT
LIMITED,
PICTURE OF
HER PLAN.

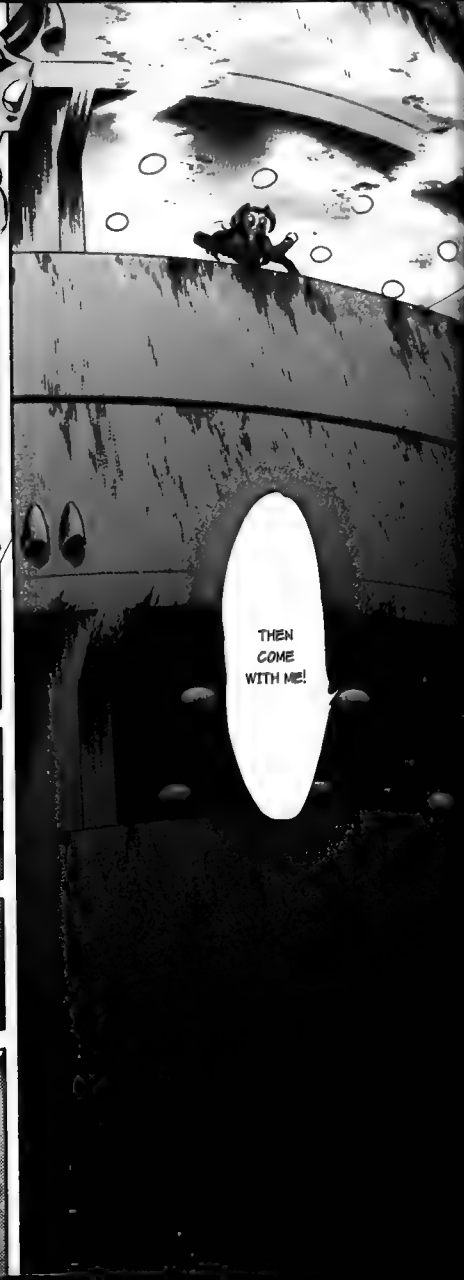
I WANTED
TO SEE IT
WITH MY
OWN
EYES!

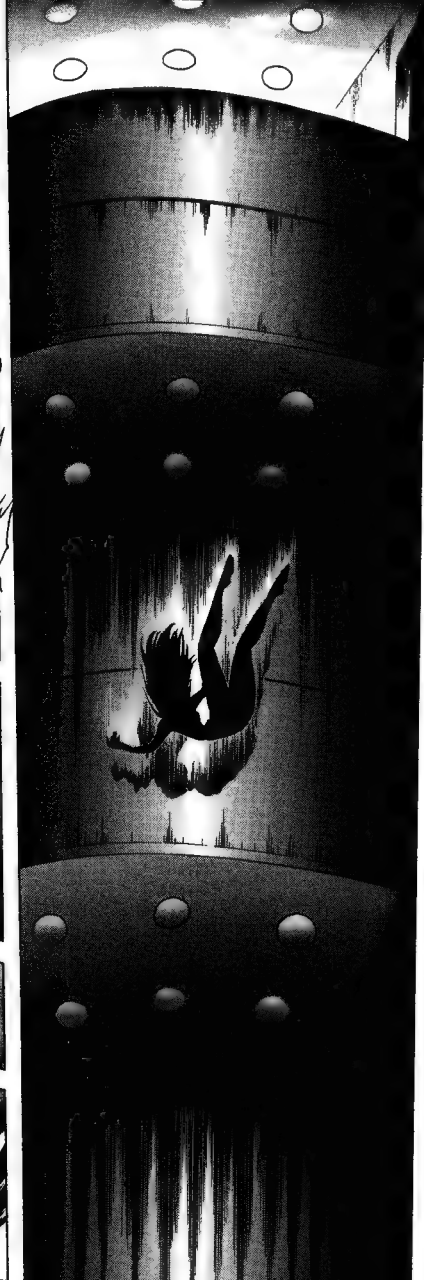
... I MUST SAY, I'M
DISAPPOINTED.

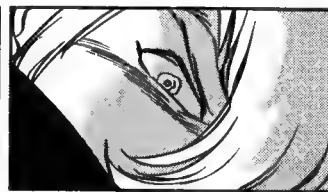
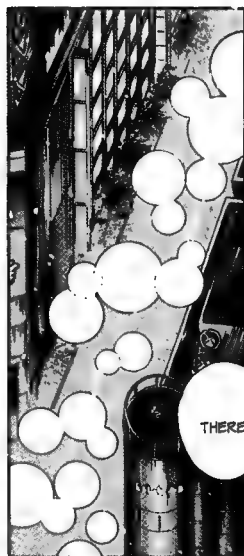
AND...

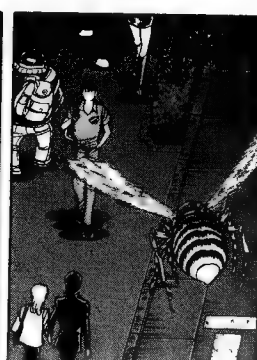
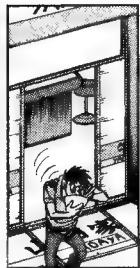
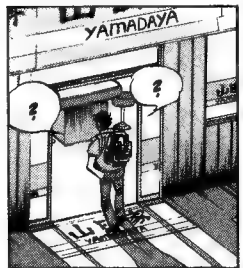


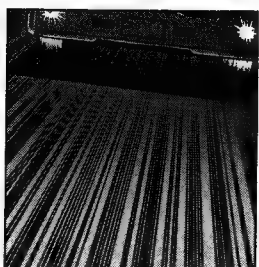
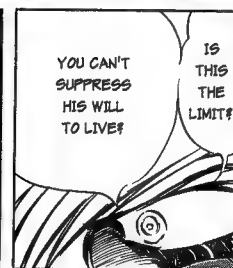
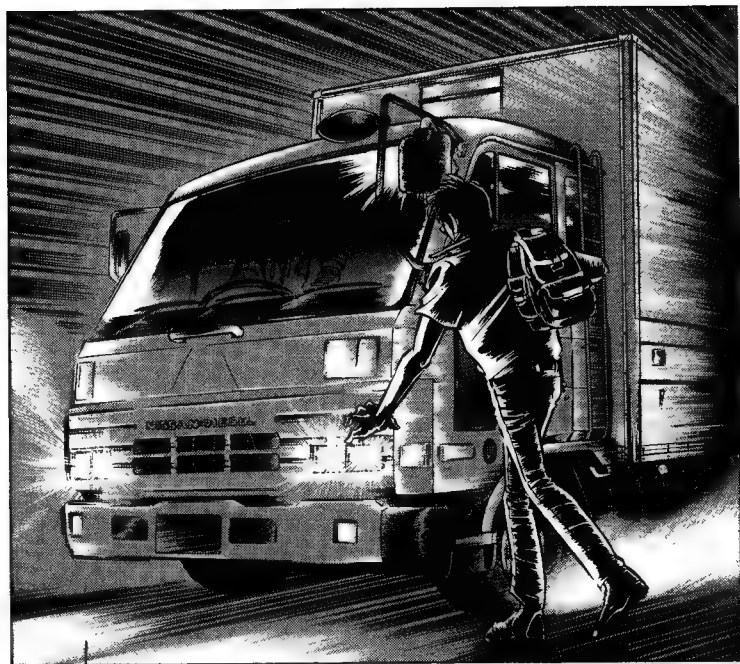




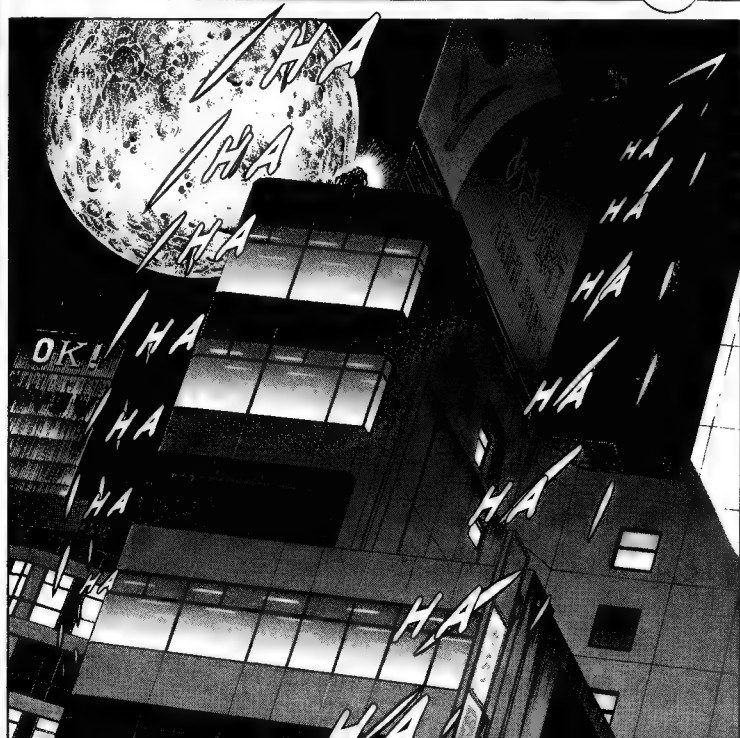
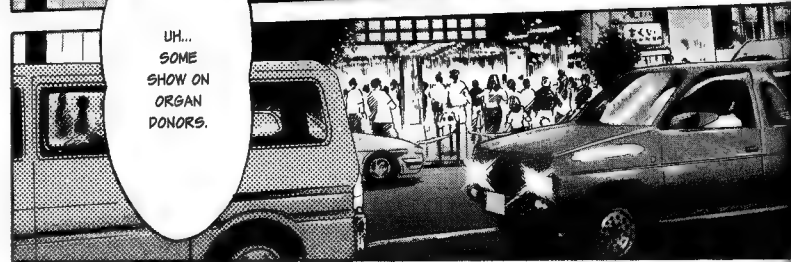
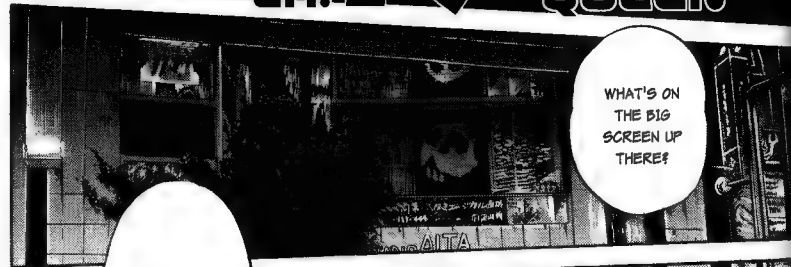










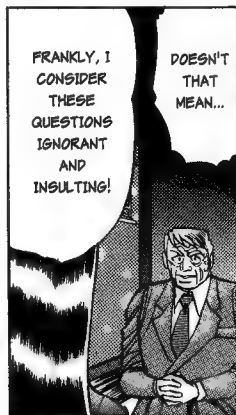




THAT IS
MY ONLY
RESPONSIBILITY!

MY DUTY IS TO
SECURE AS MANY
SUITABLE ORGANS
FROM DONORS AS
POSSIBLE!

*THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE: THE TRUTH ABOUT DONOR REGISTRATION

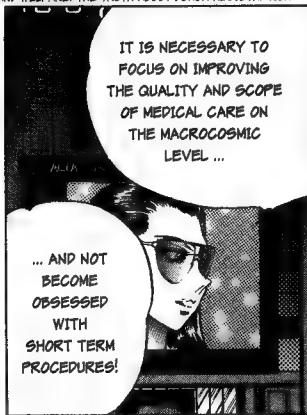


FRANKLY, I
CONSIDER
THESE
QUESTIONS
IGNORANT
AND
INSULTING!

DON'T
THAT
MEAN...



YES,
BUT...



IT IS NECESSARY TO
FOCUS ON IMPROVING
THE QUALITY AND SCOPE
OF MEDICAL CARE ON
THE MACROCOSMIC
LEVEL ...

... AND NOT
BECOME
OBSESSED
WITH
SHORT TERM
PROCEDURES!



OF
COURSE!

THAT'S WHY
WE NEED TO
CONTINUE
EXPERIMENTAL
RESEARCH.

...THAT THERE
ARE VERY FEW
SUCCESSFUL
CASES.
DON'T THAT
SUGGEST ...

THE RECORD
CLEARLY
DEMON-
STRATES ...



THOSE ARE
YOUR
WORDS,
NOT MINE!

SENSATIONALISTIC
SPECULATION
LIKE THAT ONLY
MISLEADS THE
PUBLIC.

... ON LIVE
SUBJECTS?
EXPERIMENTS ON
HUMAN TEST
SUBJECTS? IS
THAT
WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING?

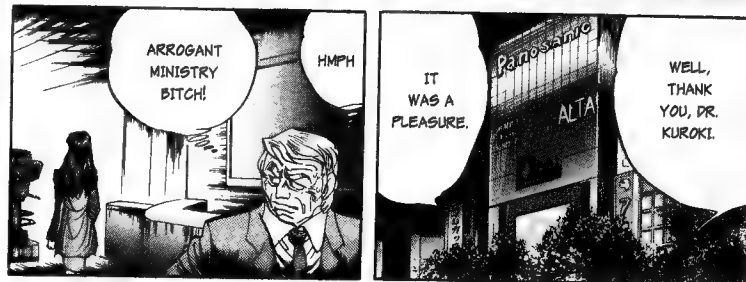
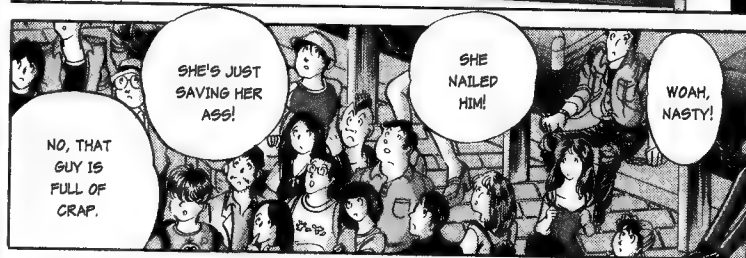
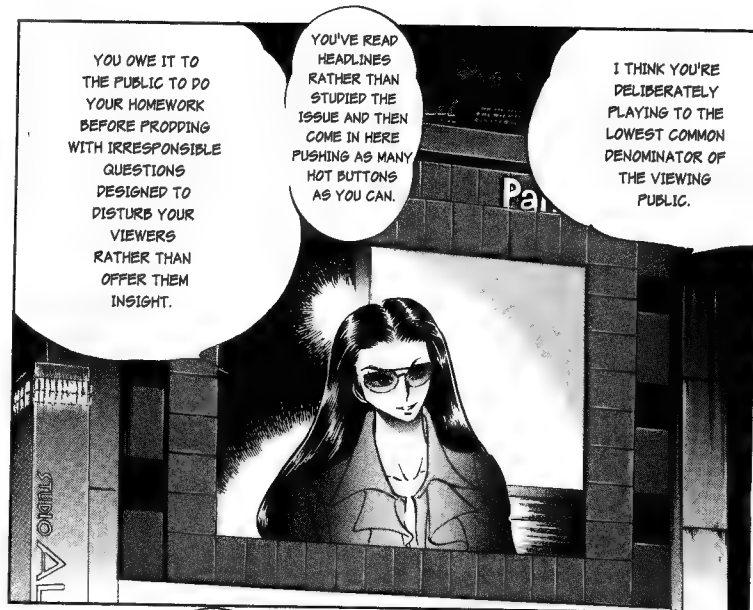
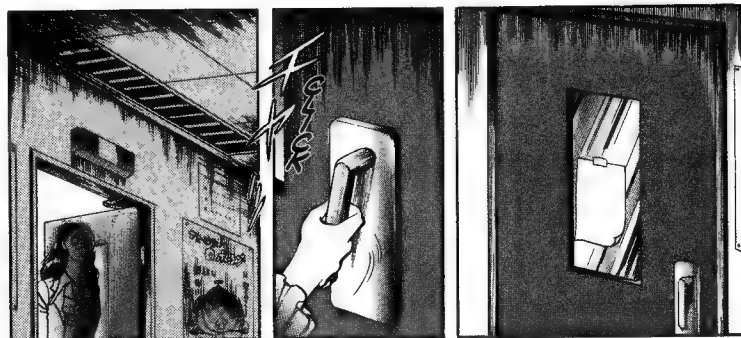
DO
YOU
MEAN...



THAT
QUESTION
IS NOT
GERMANE
TO THIS
DISCUSSION!



BY THE WAY, DR.
KUROKI. ARE YOU
REGISTERED AS A
DONOR YOURSELF?

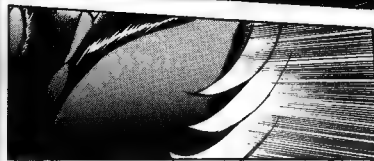




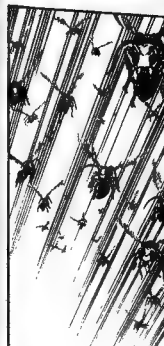
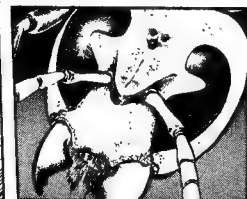




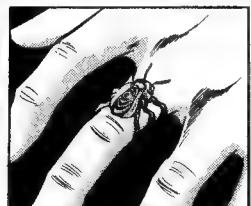
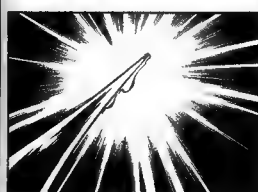














SO HE'S
WALKED
STRAIGHT
INTO THE
MIDDLE OF
THE ENEMY'S
HIVE.

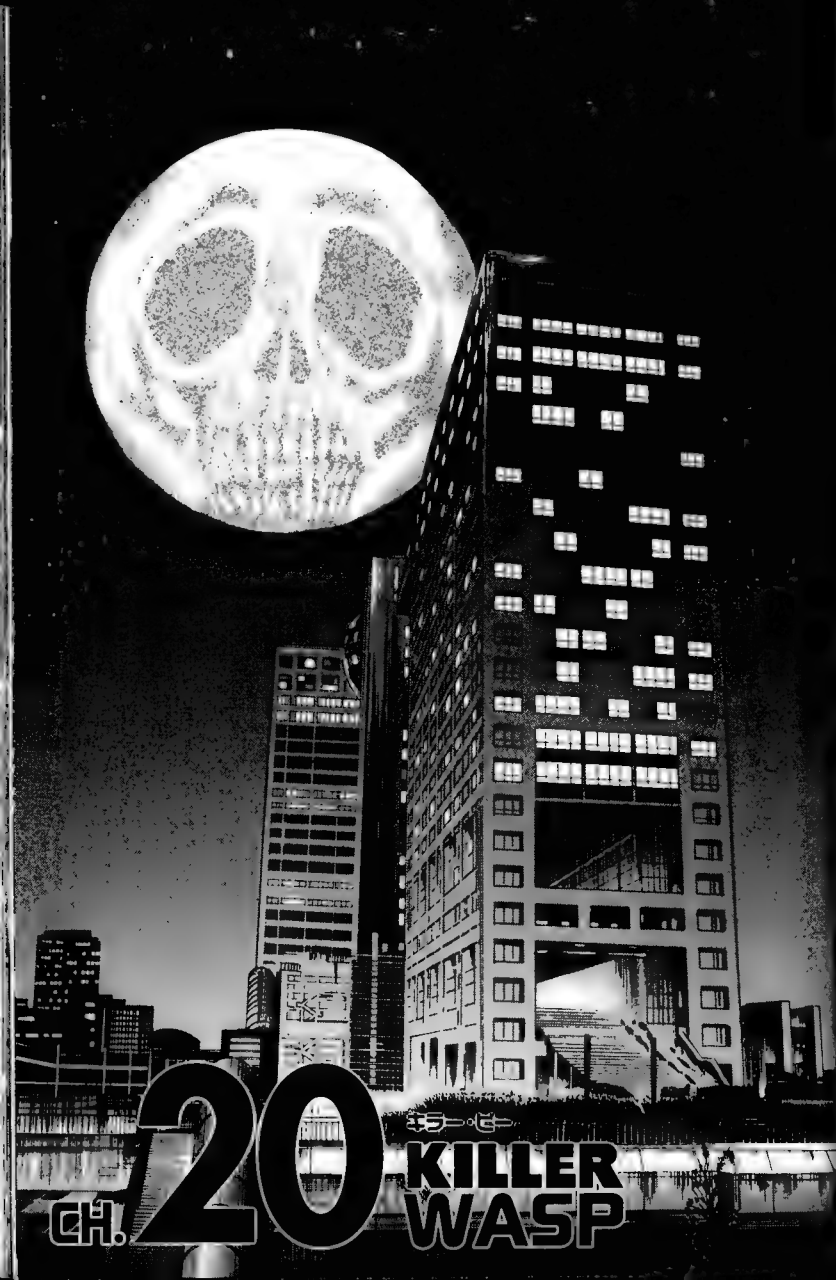


THIS
WHOLE
FLOOR...

THEY'RE
ALL
INFECT-
ED.

PROBABLY
THE ENTIRE
STATION!





CH. **20** **KILLER WASP**



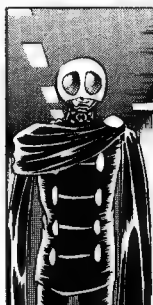
I DON'T
KNOW
WHETHER
HE'S
LUCKY...

OR
UNLUCKY..



IT ALL
DEPENDS ON
HOW YOU
LOOK AT THE
SITUATION.







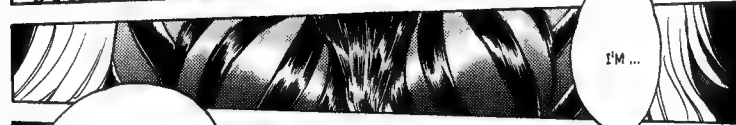
AN
INSECT!

AND YOU
MUST BE...

PARDON. A
LITTLE
WASP.



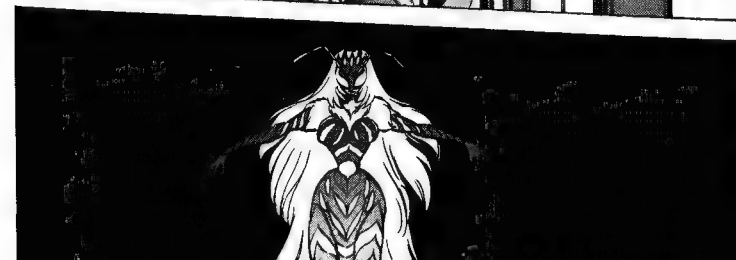
NO ...



I'M ...



... NOT AN
ORDINARY
WASP!
I AM...



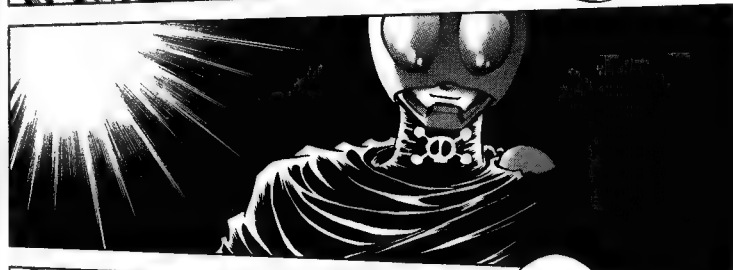
AH! SO
YOU'RE...



THE VEXING
SKULL MAN!



YOUR
REPUTATION
PRECEDES
YOU.



YEAH!



I'M
VEXING,
HUH?

L'I'L
OL'
ME!

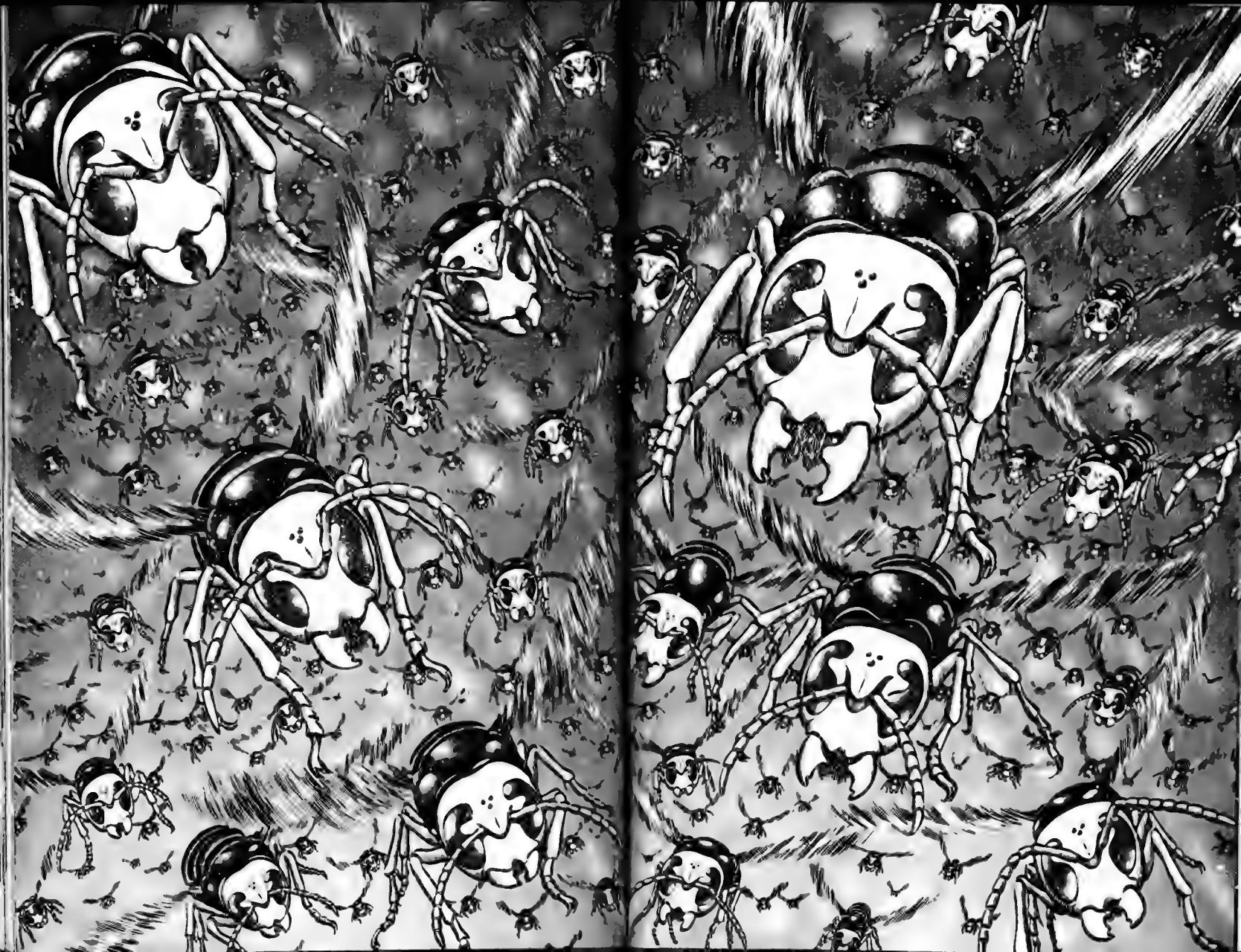
お呼び!!

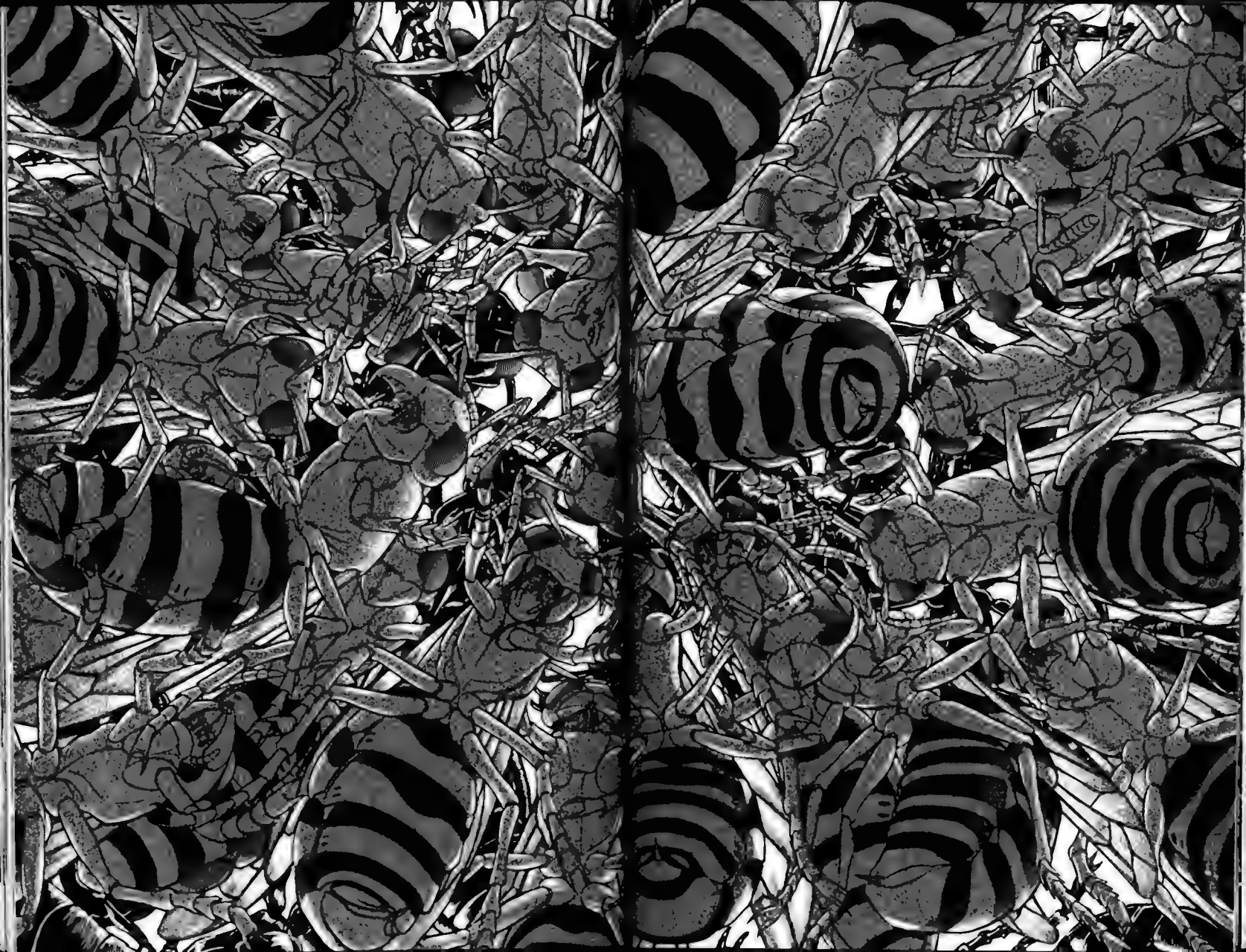
WASP

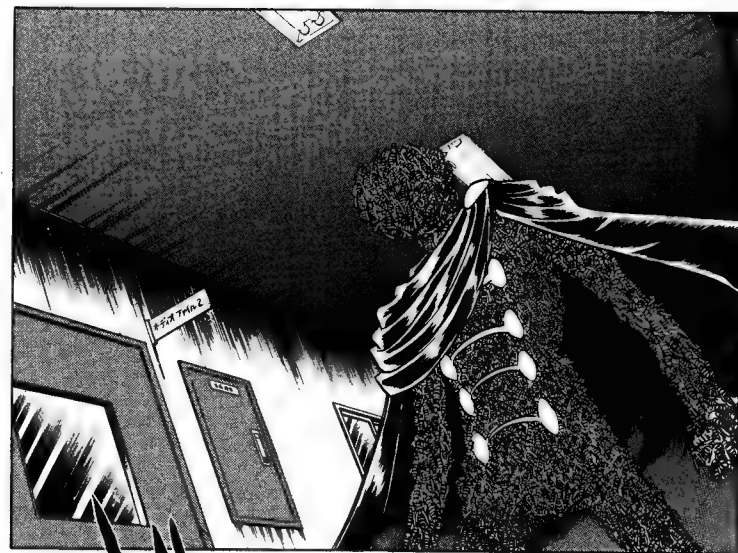
女王様と

QUEEN











BUT YOU'LL
MAKE A
HANDSOME
ADDITION TO
MY DRONES!



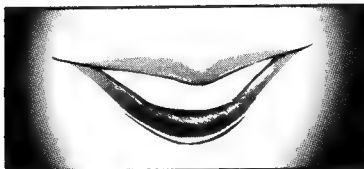
ON AIR

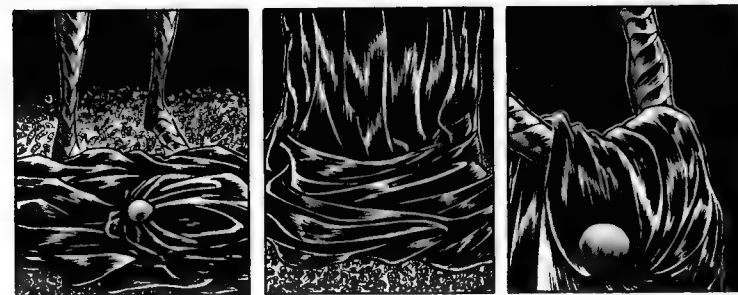


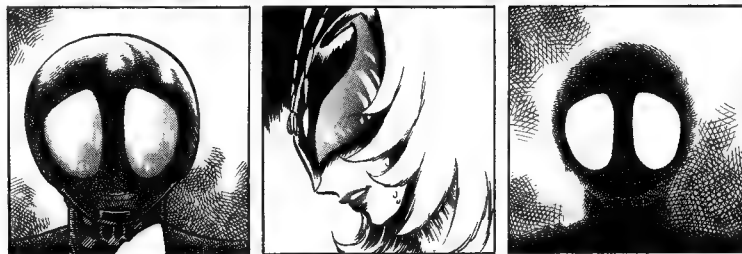
YOU FALL
SHORT OF
YOUR
REPUTATION,
SKULL MAN.

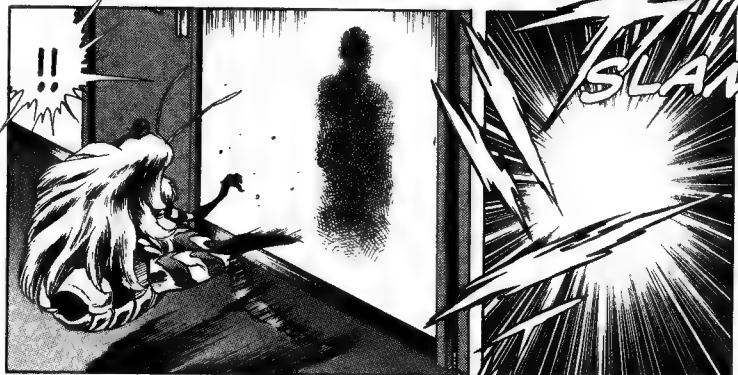
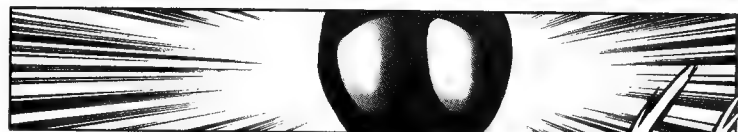
BENEATH THAT
FANCY MASK AND
RIDICULOUS CAPE,
YOU'RE JUST AS
INFERIOR AS
THESE HUMANS.

I SHOULDN'T
HAVE
EXPECTED
A REAL
CHALLENGE!











CH. **21** バトル **THE DRONE**



HOW DO YOU...?

WHA...?

PERHAPS IT CONTAINS THE SAME POISON USED ON YOUR PARTNER!!

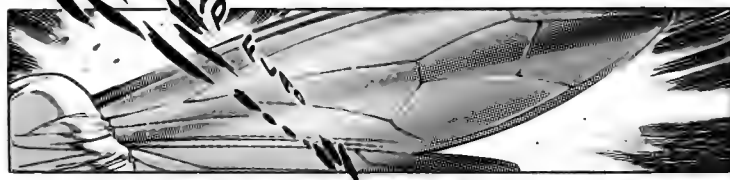


SO WHAT'S YOUR PLAN, HIOKA? IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU!

THIS WOMAN HAS THE ANTI-DOTE! BUT SHE WON'T JUST GIVE IT TO YOU!

JUST LISTEN. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.









...BUT
YOU'RE NOT
GONNA
TRICK ME
INTO
BECOMING
ONE OF
YOUR
PATSYES!

LISTEN TO
ME YOU
MURDERER!
I DUNNO
WHAT
YOU'RE
GAME IS ...

YOU...



HUH
HUH
HUH

IF YOU HAVE
ANY IDEAS,
MAYBE I CAN
HELP YOU!

SO, WHAT'S
YOUR PLAN,
HIOKA?



BULLSHIT!



I CAN'T DO
ANYTHING
FOR HIM
NOW!

HE KNEW
THE
RISKS!

WE
BOTH
KNEW
THEM!

ALL I
CAN DO
IS GO ON
ALONE ...

AND
AVENGE
OTAKI!



BUT, HOW
ELSE ARE
YOU GONNA
GET OUT OF
HERE?!

HER
DRONES ARE
EVERY-
WHERE.
ESCAPE IS
SLIM ON
YOUR OWN.

AND...

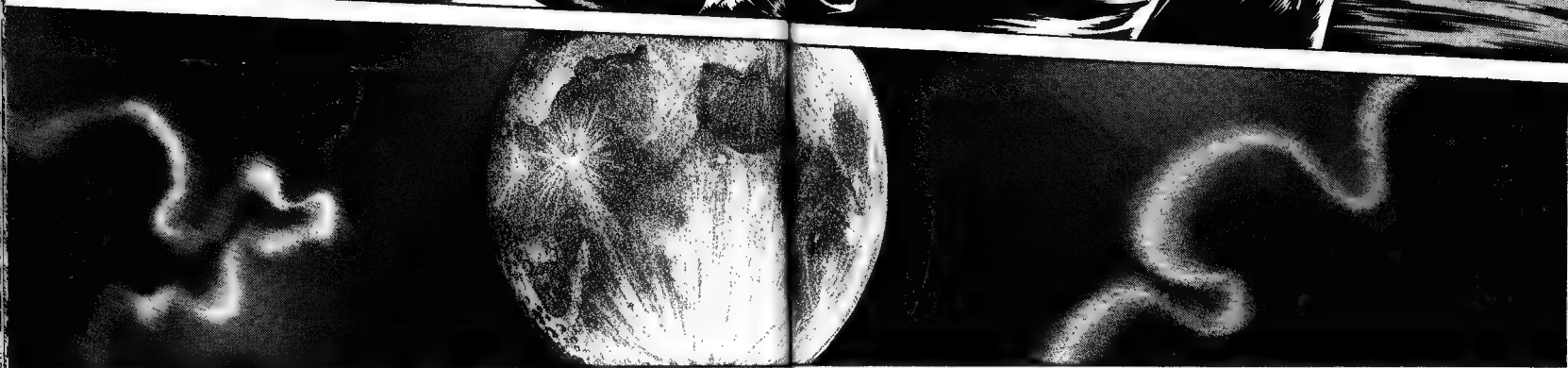
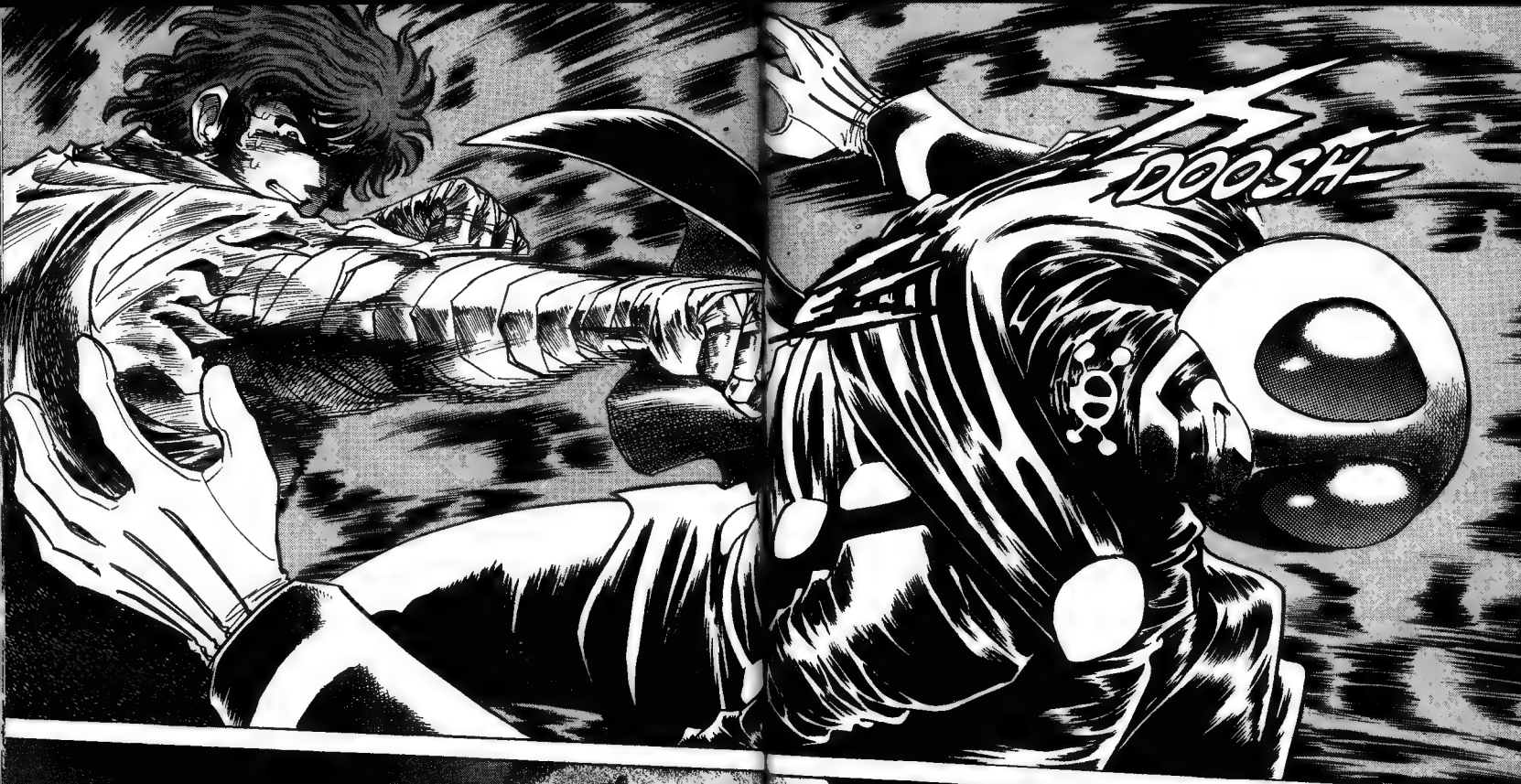
YOU NEED
TO SAVE
YOUR
PARTNER'S
LIFE.

HEH.

PARANOID,
BUT
UNDERSTAND-
ABLY SO
CONSIDERING
EVERYTHING
YOU'VE SEEN.

BUT...

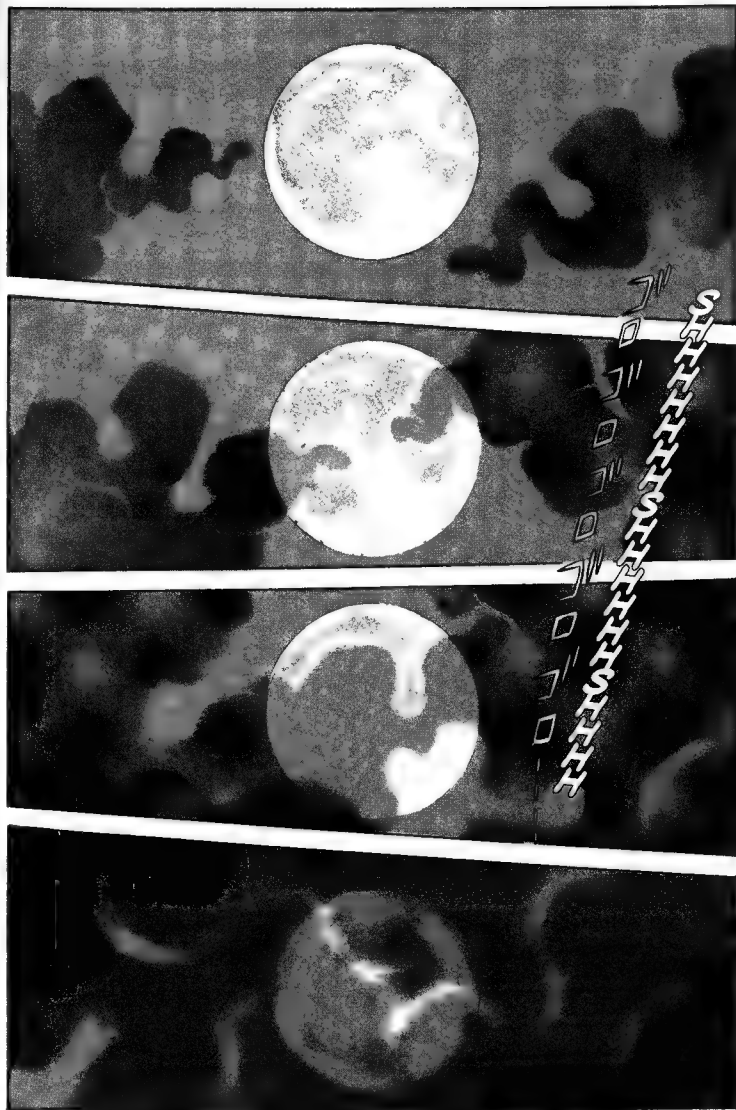
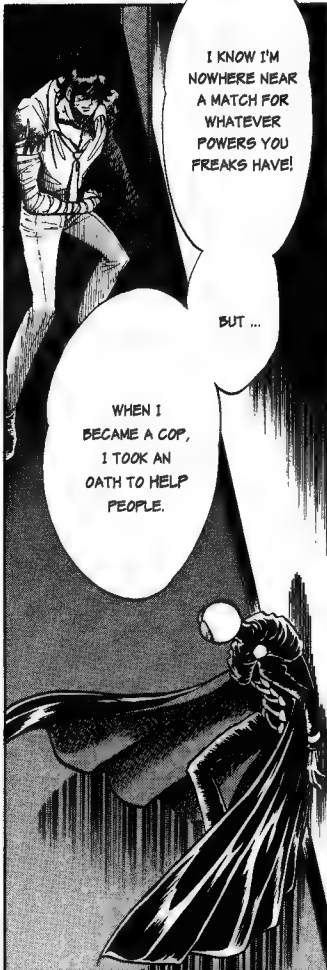
YOU WANT TO HELP ME?!
BULLSHIT!
YOU'RE ONLY OUT FOR
YOURSELF! YOU WANNA
USE ME SOMEHOW...



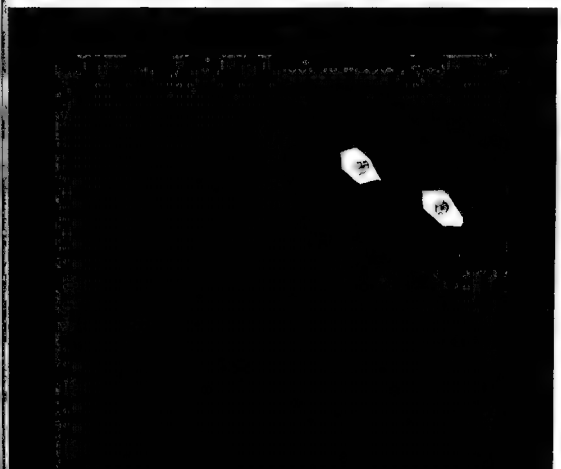
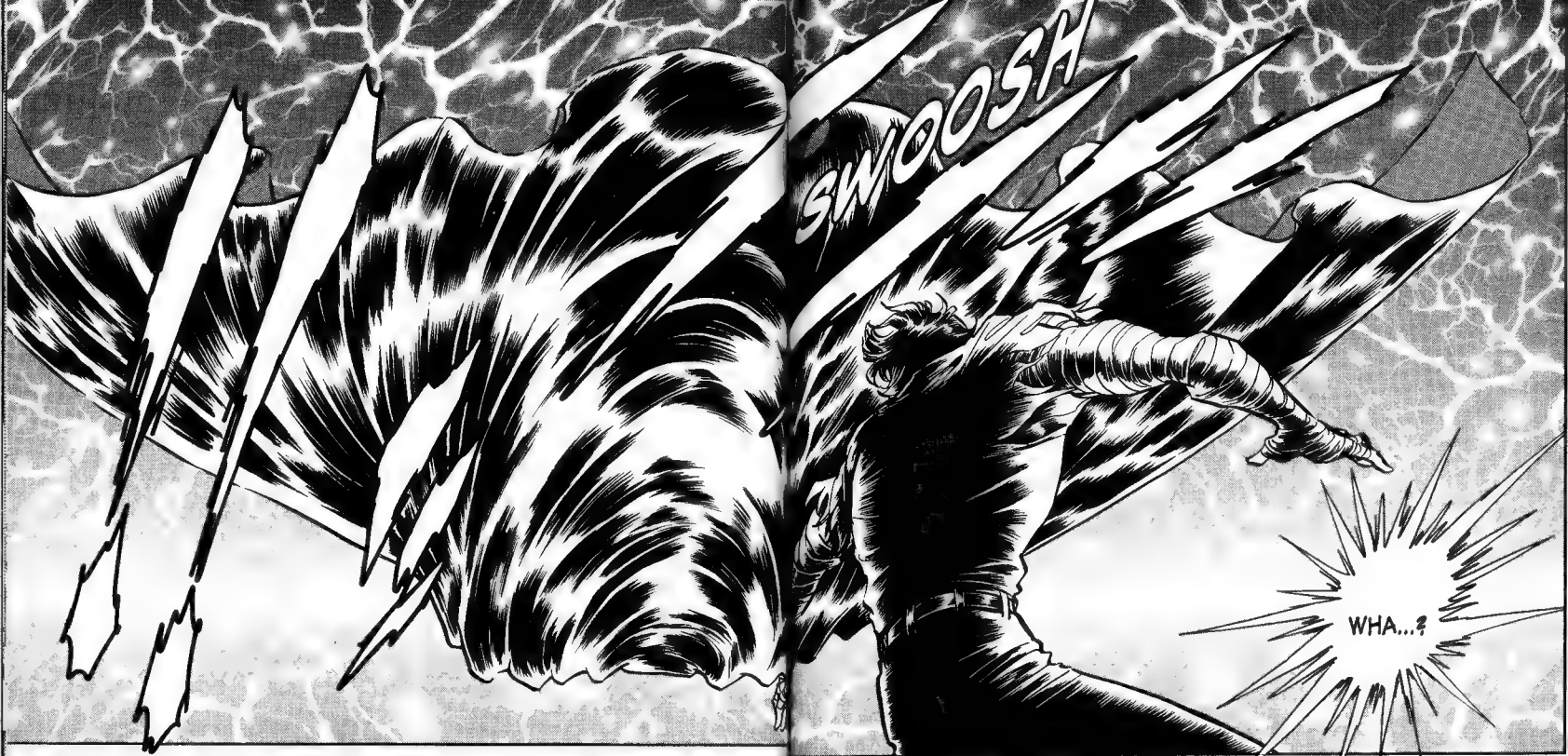


SOME COPS
WON'T GIVE
UP!! OTAKI
WOULDN'T'VE
GIVEN UP!!

WHEN I
BECAME A COP,
I TOOK AN
OATH TO HELP
PEOPLE.









YOU...
YOU'RE
INSIDE MY
MIND!
THAT'S...
HOW...?

AND HE'S
RIGHT, ISN'T
HE? MUTANT
WACKOS WITH
DANGEROUS
POWERS!

NO ...

NO,
DON'T!

ANYTHING!

WE CAN DO
ANYTHING!

AND WE JUST
SUCK WEALTH
AND INFLUENCE
FROM ORDINARY
HUMANS LIKE
LAZY PARA-
SITES!

LIKE
WE'RE
TICKS ON
CATTLE!

STOP!

NNN...

NO,
WE'RE
NOT...



ENJOYING
THE SHOW?



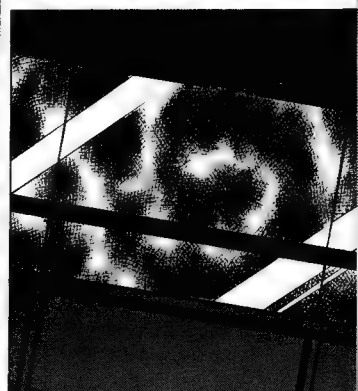
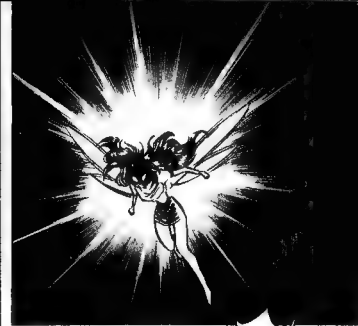
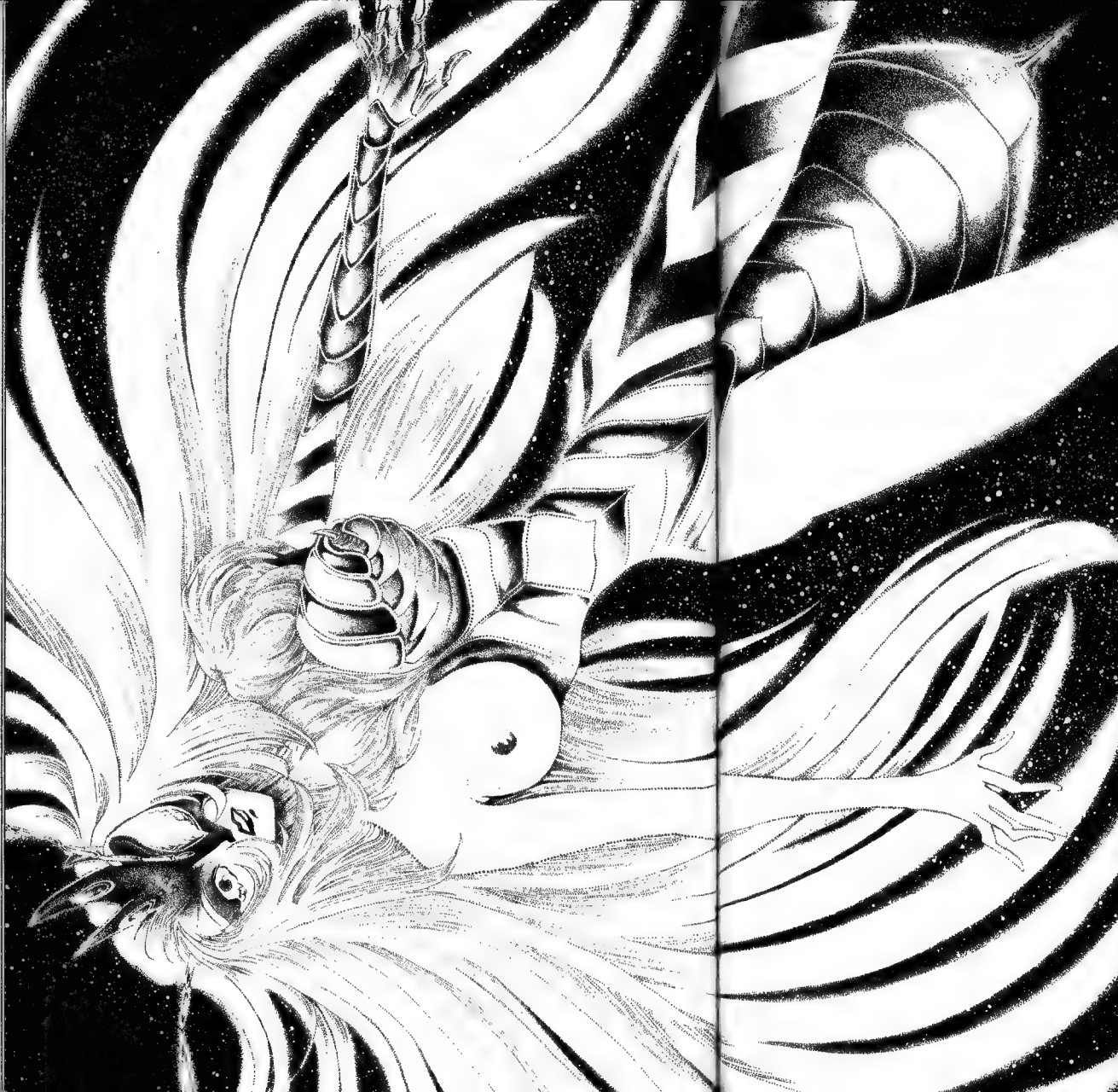
WHERE...
?

YOU...

THE CORNY
DIALOGUE
NEEDS SOME
WORK. BUT A
STELLAR
PERFORM-
ANCE.

HE REALLY
MEANS IT ALL.
AN HONEST
COP ... WOULD
YOU BELIEVE
IT?







BUT TAKE A LOOK AT
WHAT YOU'VE BECOME!
WHERE IN YOUR NOBLE
AMBITIONS FALLS
YOUR ROLE AS QUEEN
LORDING OVER
HORDES OF MINDLESS
PRONES!

YOU MAY HAVE
BEGUN BY
ACTUALLY WANTING
TO IMPROVE
MEDICAL SCIENCE --
AND PERHAPS DEEP
WITHIN YOU THERE
WAS A HANKERING
TO BE RENOWNED
FOR YOUR WORK.



THE BODY,
MIND AND SPIRIT
ARE NOT
SEPARATE
ESSENCES BUT
PART OF ONE
BEING!

EVERY TIME YOU
TRANSFORM YOUR
BODY, YOUR MIND
MUTATES AS WELL,
POISONING YOUR
PERSPECTIVE.

WITHOUT REALIZING
IT, YOUR ATTITUDES,
YOUR ACTIONS, YOUR
VERY SOUL TRANS-
FORMS ALONG WITH
YOUR MORTAL COIL.
THE CORRUPTION OF
YOUR BODY NECES-
SARILY CORRUPTS
YOUR MIND AND
SPIRIT.

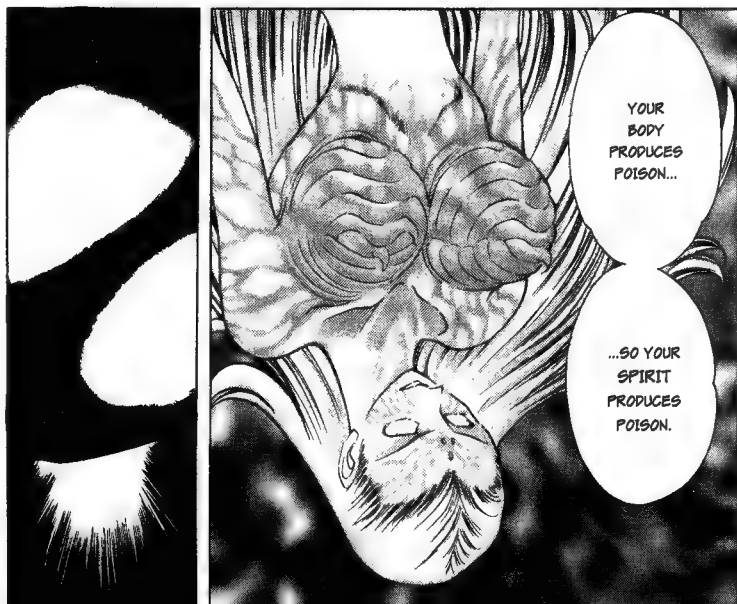


I'M IN A RUSH,
SO I'LL GET
TO THE POINT!

AH, THE
SEEDS OF A
FASCINATING
MORAL DEBATE
BEST SAVED FOR
ANOTHER DAY.

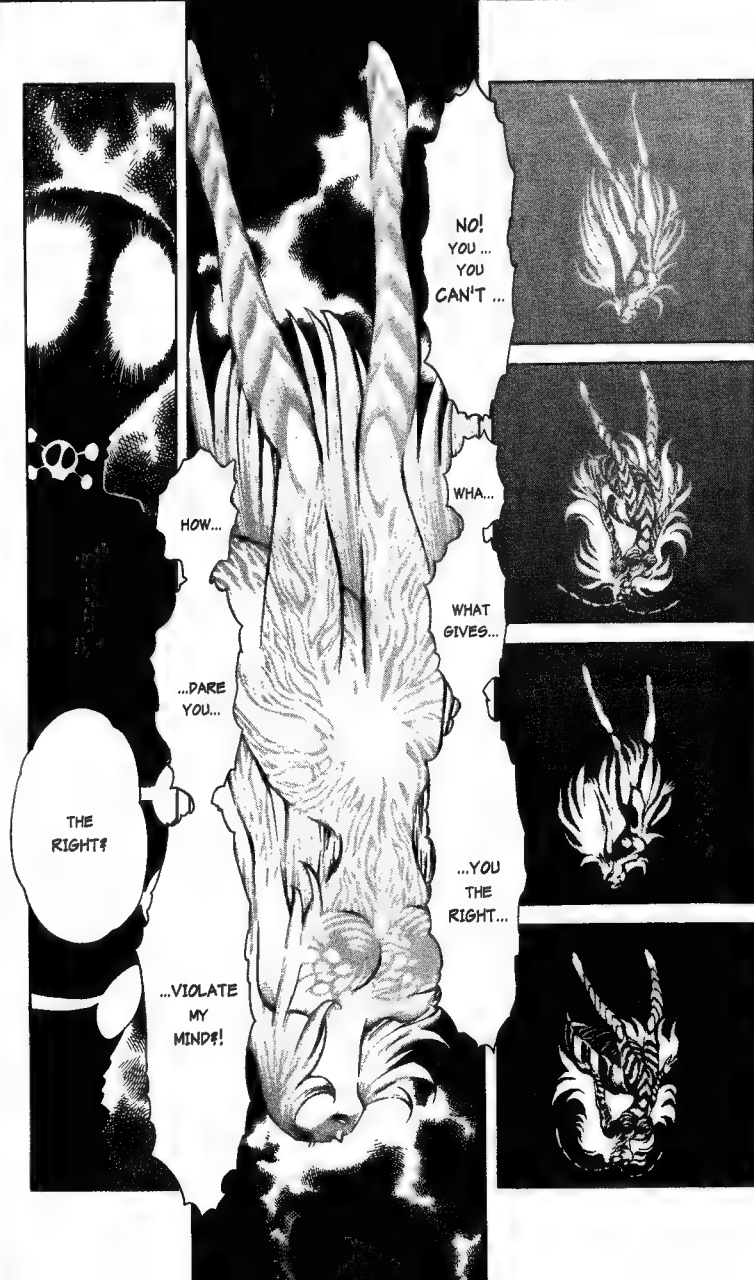
LOOK.

LOOK AT
YOUR
BREASTS!



YOUR
BODY
PRODUCES
POISON...

...SO YOUR
SPIRIT
PRODUCES
POISON.



NO!
YOU ...
YOU
CAN'T ...

WHA...

WHAT
GIVES...

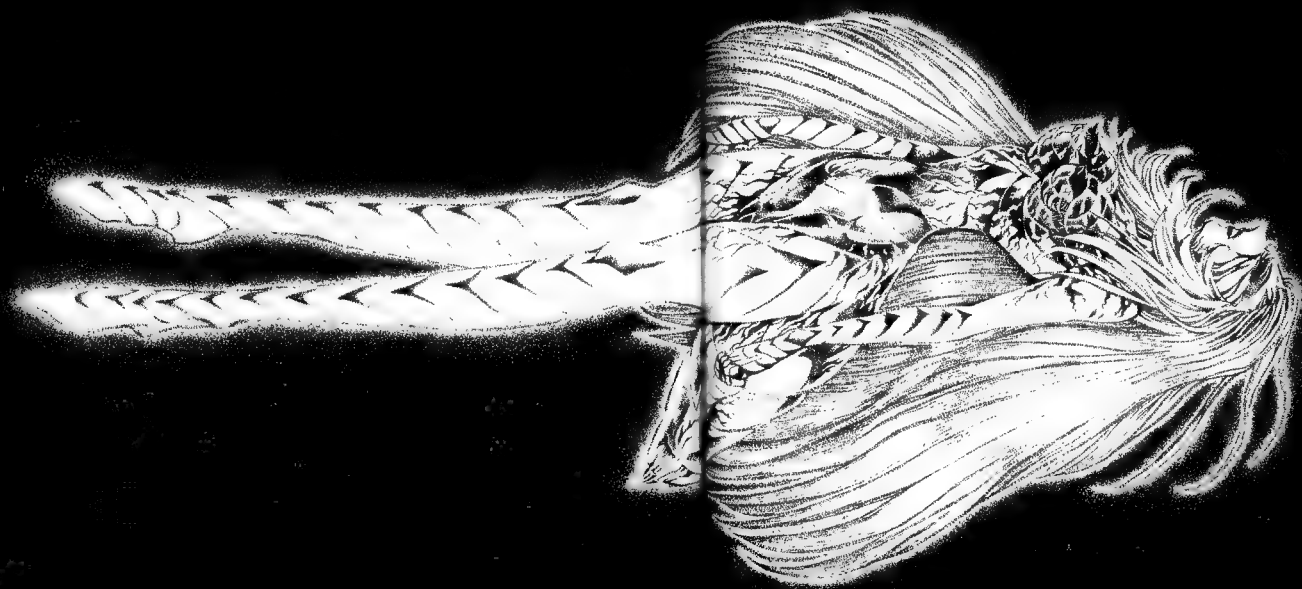
HOW...

...DARE
YOU...

THE
RIGHT?

...VIOLATE
MY
MIND?

...YOU
THE
RIGHT...



WHO ARE YOU --
SKULL MAN?!

WHO...

IT
HURTS...

IT'S
TEARING
ME
APART!!

...YOUR
POWER
INSIDE
ME!

AGH!
...I CAN
FEEL...

BUT YOU'RE
NOT EVIL
THROUGHOUT.
ANOTHER
PART OF YOUR
BODY MUST
PRODUCE AN
ANTIDOTE TO
YOUR POISON.

YOUR
OVARIES
!?



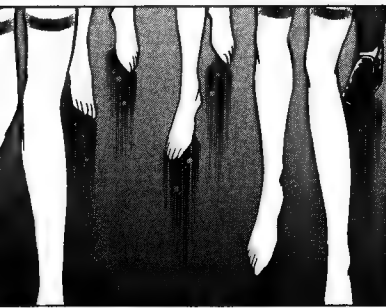


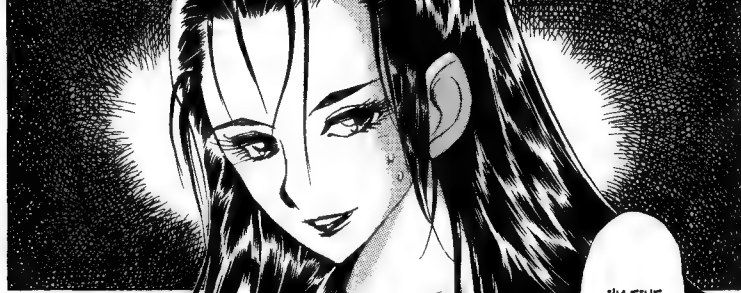
AND I WAS
CHASTISING
QUEENIE
BECAUSE SHE
LOST CONTROL!

TH...
THANKS,
MAYA! FOR
SAVING
ME!!

MY POWERS ...
ARE STILL
GROWING ... I
NEARLY LOST
CONTROL
THAT TIME...





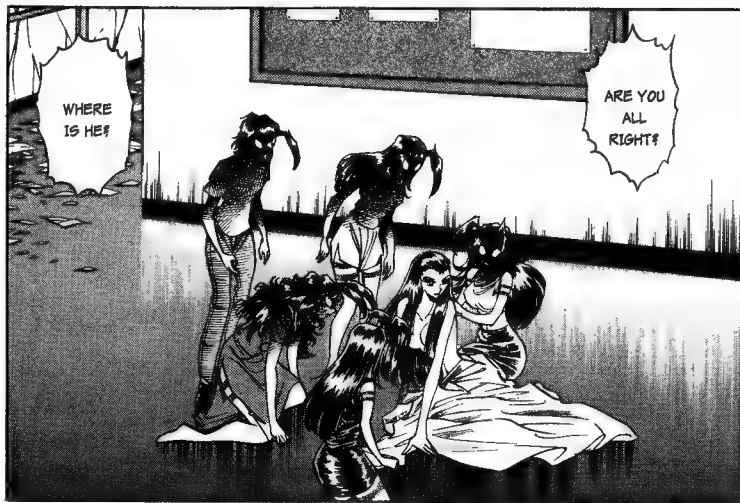
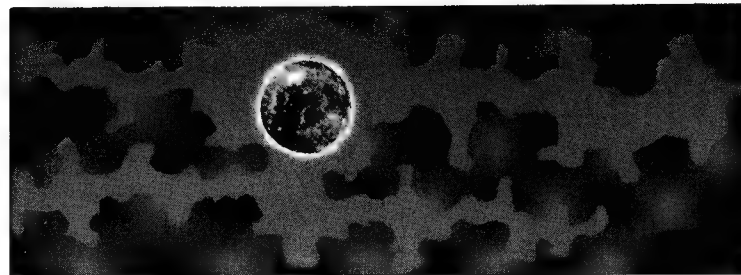


I'M FINE,
MY
LOVES.



IT'S
ALL
OVER.

YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY.

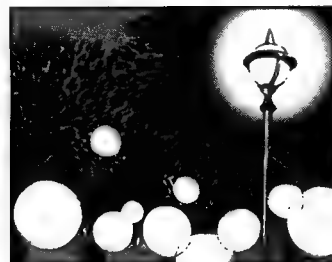


WHERE
IS HE?

ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT?



WHA...?!



NGH...





ROYAL
JELLY!

... THE
ANTIDOTE.

SKULL
MAN...



WAS
I
DREAMING?!!

DID
HE...?



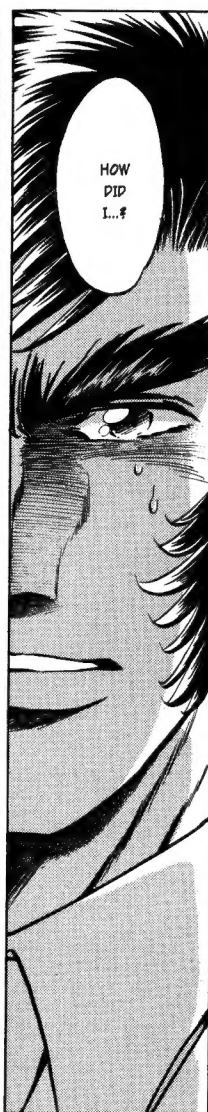
GOTTA GET
TO THE
HOSPITAL!

DAMN! IS
THIS PART OF
MY HANG-
OVER?

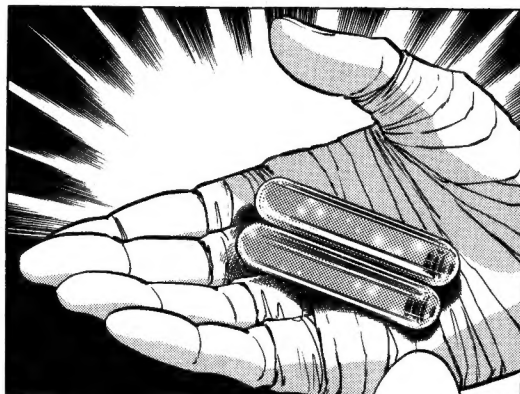
OR DID THEY
DO SOMETHING
TO ME...



EX?

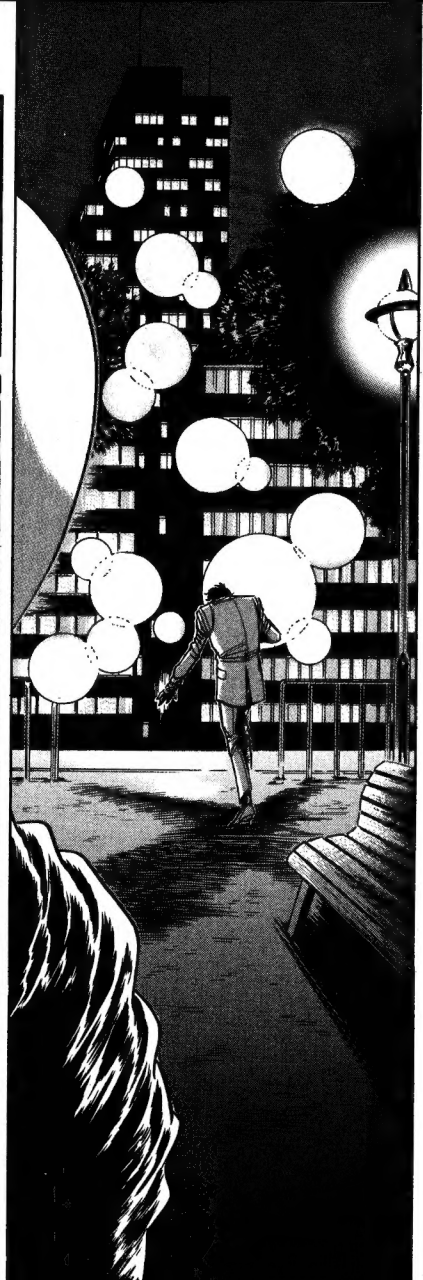
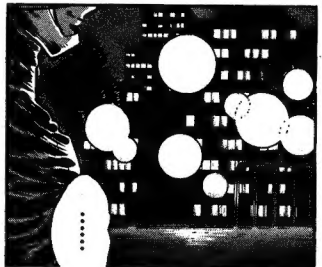
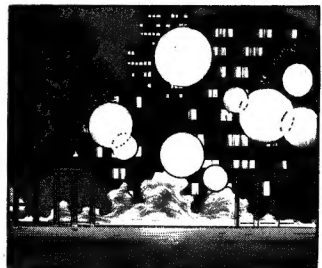


HOW
DID
I...?



THIS
IS!!





PRIEST II

THE QUICK & THE UNDEAD
IN ONE MACABRE MANGA.
AVAILABLE NOW



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YOU OWE
ME ONE,
DETECTIVE
HIOKA!

YOU'RE
AN
HONEST
COP.

I
KNOW
YOU'RE
GOOD FOR
IT.

END OF VOLUME 3



K i c k t h e k t y

wilson
wilson